PCGG to summon Irene, Greggy

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

GMA approval rating up, says poll

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's net approval rating rose by 13 percentage points last month and it was among the poorest Filipinos where she registered the greatest gain in approval.

In the Pulse Asia Inc. survey conducted from June 15-26, the President got a net approval

GMA/ A19

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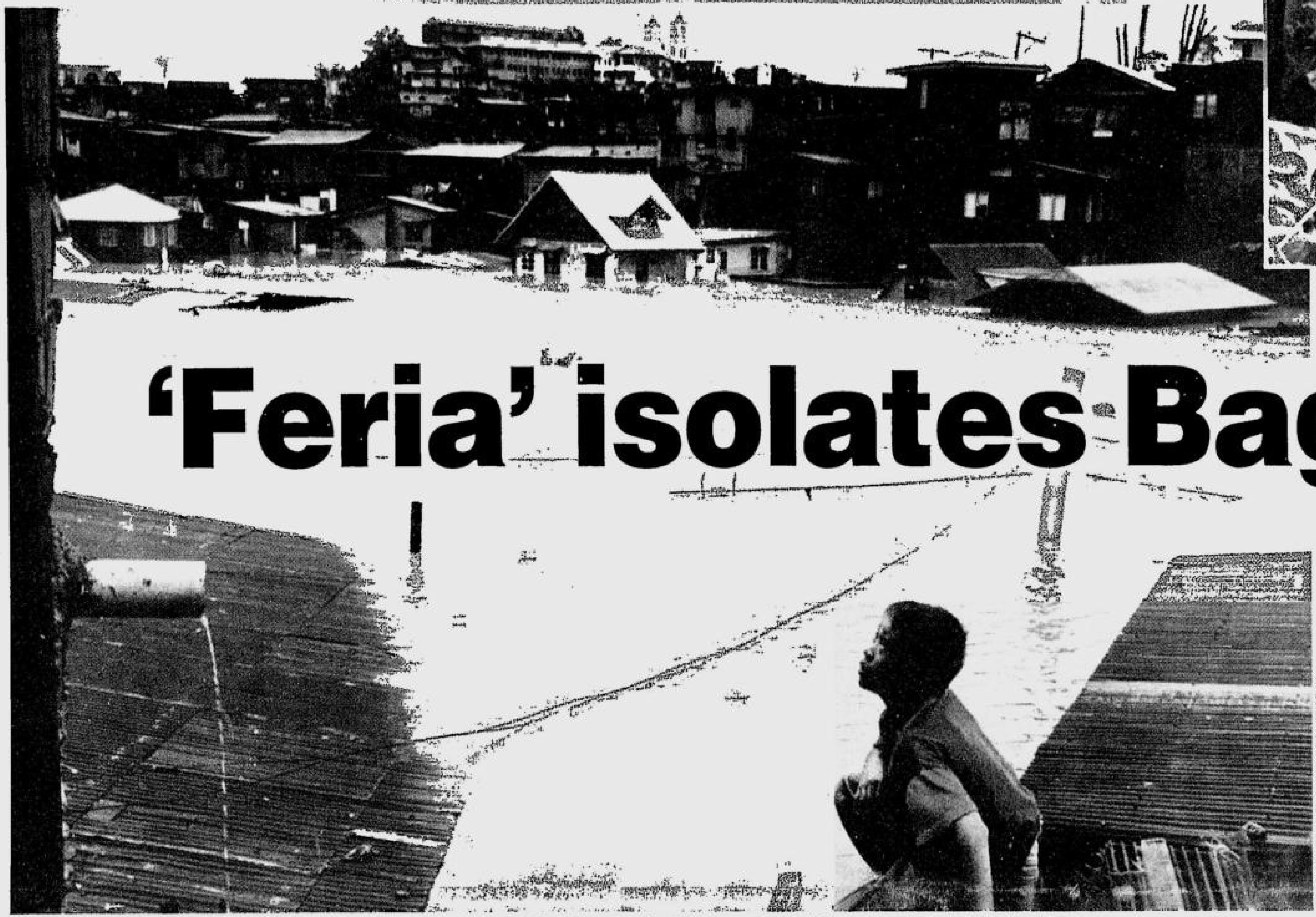
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2001 ★ 62 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 208 ₱15

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

HERE lies a child whose house collapsed on him.



EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

AFTER the storm, this boy appears to be searching for the dear, familiar walls of his house that disappeared under 10 feet of floodwaters at the City Camp Lagoon in Baguio City.

'Feria' isolates Baguio

46 dead; body count expected to rise

BY THE PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU AND CENTRAL LUZON DESK

BAGUIO CITY—Typhoon Feria roared out of the country yesterday afternoon, leaving 46 people dead in landslides and flash floods in this city and in the provinces of Benguet, Pangasinan and Cagayan.

The typhoon isolated the famous mountain resort, with the four major routes leading to and from it closed to all types of vehicles because of landslides.

"There is no electricity here and we are running out of certain basic necessities like gasoline," Agence France Presse quoted Mayor Bernardo Vergara as saying yesterday.

Disaster response officials said the body count in Baguio and Benguet was expected to rise because those reported missing in landslides since Wednesday had been presumed dead.

Mayor Nestor Fongwan of La Trinidad, Benguet, said the damage to vegetable crops in the province could be immense.

"I saw no leaf left in the farms," he said.

But Vic Tomazar, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), said the hardest hit province in the Cordillera Autonomous Region was Kalinga, with 20,142 persons displaced.

By the OCD's initial estimate, damage to crops in the province has reached P13 million.

From reports gathered by the INQUIRER, 32 people went missing in Baguio and Benguet after their houses were buried in rocks and soil loosened by continuous rains since Tuesday night. In Badoc, Ilocos Norte, a 26-year-old man was reported swept away by strong currents.

Reports from disaster response agencies and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said 19 people were killed in Baguio, 15 in Benguet, 10 in Pangasinan and two in Cagayan.

The OCD said it was expecting

FERIA/ A18

Widow seeks NBI quiz on how, where hubby died

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

THE WIDOW of the late multimillionaire Potenciano Ilusorio smells something fishy.

Saying she has "reason to believe he may have died under mysterious circumstances," Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio, 81, has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the "cause and circumstances" of Potenciano's death.

In a letter to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Erlinda suggested that "the immediate cremation of (Ilusorio's) remains may effectively cover up such circumstances and the cause of his death."

WIDOW/ A19

Isafp turns out to be Ador's handlers

BY CATHY YAMSUAN AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE HANDLERS of Angelo Mawanay alias Ador jumped the gun on Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus admitted yesterday that Ador was in the "protective custody" of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

On Tuesday, Lacson said he had an idea of the people pushing Ador to discredit him, but said he was still firming up the evidence before identifying them.

Ador, who claims to be a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), is accusing Lacson of plotting to kidnap and assassinate prominent people to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Ador had earlier jumped the gun on Lacson.

Before Lacson could reveal the real identity of Ador whom he described as a swindler, the alleged former PAOCTF civilian agent allowed the media to photograph his face on Tuesday.

Ador, who surfaced last week, used to cover his face with a handkerchief when he appeared before reporters.

Reynaldo Wycoco, National Bureau of Investigation director, has branded most of Ador's stories "incredible."

But Corpus said he would rather investigate first before making any-

ISAFP/ A19

Abu issued 'receipts' for ransom payments

BY ARLYN DELA CRUZ

BEFORE freed hostage Lalaine Chua walked out of the jungles of Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf and the group's spokesperson Abu Sabaya gave her a photo-copy of her picture. At the back, a stamp mark showing the word "paid," dated June 23, 2001, is prominently displayed.

Lalaine was given instructions that in case she and her escorts encountered an armed group along the way toward the town of Lamitan, all she had to do was to show the picture with the paid-mark at the back, and that would serve as her exit pass.

Aside from the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro National Liberation Front

ABU/ A5

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A TOUCH of whimsy: This man swam 10 meters of the City Camp Lagoon, a perennial flood site in Baguio City, to retrieve a pet stuffed toy.

Talibans training 50 Abu Sayyaf–Biazon

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
RITA VILLADIEGO
AND CARLITO PABLO

AT LEAST 50 suspected members of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf are undergoing training in Afghanistan, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon revealed yesterday.

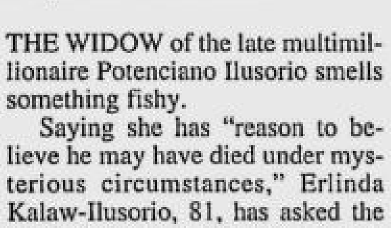
Biazon said the information was relayed to him by former Philippine ambassador to Thailand Reynaldo Arcilla, now a member of a United Nations mission to Afghanistan.

The UN team is looking at the training of suspected terrorists in Afghanistan.

"According to Arcilla, the finding is that there are now 50 members of the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) training in Afghanistan with the Taliban," Biazon said.

He described the Taliban, the

TALIBANS/ A5



SA DAMI NANG BAYAN NA BINIBISITA NG ISANG PRESIDENTE, WALA TALAGANG PANAHON PARA SA RIBBON CUTTING

Gloria set to visit 7 countries

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

IT looks like President Macapagal-Arroyo will be winging it starting in August.

The last half of the year will be extraordinarily busy for the President, who will

GLORIA/ A18

PCGG to summon Irene, Greggy over German caper

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND DONNA S. CUETO

IRENE Marcos-Araneta and husband Gregorio III will be summoned over an alleged attempt to launder Swiss deposits through a German bank account, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday.

"We will definitely call them," PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento said.

But he added that the summons would be based on a German intelligence report now in the possession of the Department of Justice, which is still being translated by authorities here. Sarmiento said the PCGG would likely open an independent local investigation to verify the conclusions of the German investigation, which established that the Aranetas and several companions opened accounts in Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf apparently in preparation for an expected fund transfer from UBS in Zurich.

Malacañang yesterday confirmed that the youngest daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos attempted to transfer part of the family's alleged ill-gotten wealth in Switzerland to her new account.

But the Palace refused to elaborate on the findings of a seven-member Philippine government delegation dispatched to Germany to in-

PCGG/ A7

'Gloria Labandera' won't wash–militants

BY ANDREA ECHAVEZ AND JULIET JAVELLANA

MILITANTS yesterday scoffed at what they said was Malacañang's "cheesy attempts" to project President Macapagal-Arroyo as a symbol of the working people by allowing a detergent manufacturer to use her picture in promoting a new brand of detergent bar.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said the soap makers would be assured the poor would boycott the product if it is anything like the Macapagal administration.

But in Malacañang where Unilever executives had brought samples of the "presidential edition" of the "Gloria Labandera" detergent bar, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President had found the idea "cute."

The soap bar is an offshoot of the "Edsa 3" protests, its name coming from the ribald ditty that supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada kept singing to mock the President.

Instead of taking offense, however, Ms Macapagal gamely accepted the nickname, disclosing that her grandmother, the mother of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, had indeed washed clothes to augment the family income.

But Tiglao said there were a number of ticklish questions, including the use of the President's photo, which might make it difficult to approve the commercial sale of the product.

A Palace source who saw the sample earlier said it might not be appropriate to have the President's photo on a detergent bar that would be sold commercially.

Tiglao said the President might decide to use the product for relief work and donations instead.

He said the samples showed a photo of the President and the name "Gloria Labandera."

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said that if the formula for the "Gloria Labandera" soap would be reflective of the economic policies and the political stance of the Macapagal administration, "then the public can be certain that the soap won't wash away dirt and grime."

"The most that it will able to do is create bubbles and suds just like what the Filipino people have been getting from this government," he added.

He said that after six months in power, the Macapagal administration has done nothing but make promises of poverty alleviation that "have burst like bubbles, and the sudsy opera that is Malacañang's dealings with the opposition and ousted president Estrada."

"Arroyo is hardly an ally of the poor and the working people. Her indifference to the workers' demands for a just wage increase and a stop to the oil price hikes reveals just how much she cares for the people," Malunes said.

He said that the President would be better off being a model for military uniforms or combat boots, a sarcastic reference to the President's recent grant of some P10 billion in fresh funds to the Armed Forces.

The urban poor group Kadamay "officially ended" its honeymoon period with the Macapagal administration yesterday, because of its alleged failure to address the plight of the poor.

In a press conference, Kadamay said it was dumping Ms Macapagal for making their lives "far worse than it was five months ago."

Urban poor leaders said the President's "Ate Glo" antics no longer amused the poor.

Kadamay chair Carmen "Nanay Mameng" Deunida, one of the leaders of the defunct Erap Resign Movement, described Ms Macapagal's policies and pronouncements as "*kontra-mahirap* (anti-poor)," "*hungkag at laos na* (phony and outdated)."

Far from favoring the poor majority, the government's policies only favor "foreign capital, big business and the military," she said.

Deunida was among the few civil society leaders on the Edsa Shrine stage when Ms Macapagal took her oath shortly after Estrada fled Malacañang in January.

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Next, alien consultants will have to reveal pay

BY ARMAND NOCUM JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has filed a bill seeking full disclosure of the nature of the work and the salaries of foreign consultants working for the government, noting they have also reportedly been receiving "outrageously huge" fees.

In Senate Bill No. 851, Pimentel asked the Office of the Executive Secretary and government agencies concerned to fully disclose the identities, nature of work and compensation packages of all the foreign consultants hired or retained by the government.

Pimentel said the consultants' fat fees and allowances eat up a huge portion of the funding for the programs or projects for which they had been hired.

"Transparency in this regard is needed so that the public will know whether or not the consultancy fees paid these persons are commensurate to the benefits the government is supposed to get from their services," he said.

Pimentel said the public deserves to know how much in taxpayers' money is going to these consultants.

"Our people should be appraised whether or not the services of these consultants are indispensable and cannot be rendered by our local experts," he said.

Pimentel's move came after the Palace bared the fat fees received by officials of quasi-government institutions. The President had ordered the excessive salaries trimmed to be more in keeping with other officials of the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to enforce drastic cuts in the salaries of senior officers of government corporations and financial institutions would affect only political appointees and not career executives, Malacañang explained the other day.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz was "probably misinformed" when the latter said that cutting the pay of career executives would result in the exodus of good people from government.

"That claim is totally baseless. We have to emphasize that Memorandum Order No. 20 involves only the political appointees and nominees. Career executives are not affected by the order," Tiglao said.

Tiglao explained that political appointees and nominees are almost entirely limited to the board, chair or CEO levels.

He said Malacañang did not see any legal obstacle to the President's order to reduce the salary and benefits of the senior officers of government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions.

He reiterated the President's response to those who continue to resist or question her June 25 order.

"As the President said, these are political appointees. She appointed these people. If they don't agree with her policy, they would have to resign. As an appointee or nominee of the President, you have to follow the policy and philosophy of the President on governance," Tiglao said.

The President has ordered the GOCCs and GFIs who are exempt from the 1989 Salary Standardization Law to freeze all salary increases and to prepare a pay reduction plan.

They were given one month to submit the plan for her approval.

The President issued the order after a budget department study exposed the pay structures of the GOCCs and GFIs.

The study found that the chairs of these state agencies were receiving inordinately high salaries and benefits packages, with the chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office topping the list at P10.9 million.

In another development, Malacañang described as "exaggerated" the concerns expressed by a group of economic and social policy experts that the government may be losing the will to effect genuine reform because of its involvement in short-term threats and political crises.

The experts, whose analysis of factors threatening efforts at boosting the economy was contained in a series of reports called Yellow Paper II that it submitted to the President on Monday, warned that the "potential for change made possible by Edsa 2 is close to being squandered."

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Military denies hand in Bayan Muna deaths

DAVAO CITY—The military here said it has nothing to do with the deaths of two Bayan Muna officials in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

At the same time, Maj. Romeo Ucag, chief of the Army's Civil Relations Group for Southern Mindanao, welcomed the planned investigation into the deaths by the Commission on Human Rights.

"We actually want the investigation, we welcome it. The Army is being accused of killing the two," Ucag told the INQUIRER.

The National Democratic Front earlier said the deaths of Roberto Nepa and Carmenia Abatan, vice chair and auditor, respectively, of Bayan Muna in the hands of the military has poisoned the peace process.

But Ucag said what happened in Talaingod was an ordinary crime.

"In fact we encourage the police to conduct an investigation because we don't have anything to do with the incident," he said.

Ucag said Col. Constante Pante, commanding officer of the 72nd Infantry Battalion, made a similar denial in an official report he submitted.

In the report, Pante admitted that government troops conducted an operation on June 20 in Talaingod, where they encountered some 30 heavily armed rebels. During the firefight, the rebels killed Sgt. Wilfredo Gutierrez.

Contrary to allegations, Pante said Nepa and Abatan were killed by New People's Army rebels on June 28, based on a report he received from outgoing Talaingod Mayor Jose Libayao.

Nepa, whose main job was driving a tricycle, reportedly failed to deliver foodstuffs and medicines to the rebels.

The rebels also reportedly warned other tricycle drivers they would suffer the same fate as Nepa, if they refused to act as couriers.

But Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, in a statement, continued to hold the military accountable for the killings and the "spate of human rights violations against the Ata-Manobo tribe" in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

Karapatan held a fact-finding mission to the town on Monday.

In a statement, Karapatan said the military have been conducting operations in barangays Dagohoy and Palma Gil since June 18.

Karapatan said soldiers harassed residents of the villages, and forced them to point out the hiding places of NPA guerillas.

During succeeding operations, the soldiers came across Nepa who was then drinking with some military informers.

That was the last time he was seen alive.

Abatan, a resident of Sitio Km. 31, Barangay Dagohoy has been missing since June 23 after he went by a house which was being used as a military detachment.

"His shallow grave was unearthed on July 1. His corpse was in an advanced state of decomposition with wounds, bruises and burns," Karapatan's statement said.

It also said more evidence of the military's abuses was evidenced by a food blockade it has implemented since June 21. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Party-list group seeks 'lost' Mindanao votes

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

WINNING party-list group Anak Mindanao (Amin) wondered yesterday where the 83,090 votes it received in Tawi-Tawi in the May 14 elections went.

Mujiv Hataman, Amin nominee, said the latest Commission on Elections report on the party-list canvass as of June 27 showed that Amin received only 22,086 votes in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which is made up four provinces, including Tawi-Tawi.

"Whatever happened to the 83,090 votes that we got in Tawi-Tawi?" Hataman asked. "Where have our votes gone?"

Hataman noted that party-list results in Tawi-Tawi had been canvassed as early as June 3, but the votes for Amin were not reflected in Comelec's Party-list Canvass Report No. 27.

Hataman said Amin got 23,927 votes in Maguindanao alone. It also got 3,186 and 1,291 in Lanao del Sur and Sulu, respectively.

Without the 83,090 votes from Tawi-Tawi, Amin only has 1.6 percent of the total votes cast in the party-list elections. A party-list group needs at least two percent of the total votes to win a seat in the House of Representatives.

Amin is currently in 12th place with 242,131 votes in the latest canvass report. It was closely behind the religious-backed Buhay Hayaang Yumabong and Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), which had 279,580 and 318,370 votes, respectively. With its votes, Cibac got 2.18 percent of the total party-list votes.

"We should have gotten more than 300,000 votes and already reached the two percent minimum," Hataman said.

Hataman lamented that since the Comelec transferred the party-list canvassing from the Philippine International Convention Center to the Comelec main office in Intramuros, the proceedings have been kept from party-list watchers.

"The proceedings have not been transparent since the canvassing is not done openly unlike before," Hataman said. "You could easily be cheated."

No one in the Comelec party-list canvass committee could be reached because the poll body suspended work yesterday due to typhoon Feria.

Sammy Plariza, Amin secretary general, said the group has decided to hire a lawyer familiar with the inner workings of the Comelec to ensure that Amin's votes in Tawi-Tawi are counted.

DOJ will contest bail for Jimenez

THE JUSTICE department said yesterday it would appeal a decision by a Manila judge granting bail to fugitive Mark Jimenez whose extradition the United States has requested.

"This is the first time that a warrant of arrest was issued with a bail amount. This is the first extradition case with this kind of decision," Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

In previous cases, she noted, warrants of arrest were issued first before a petition for bail was filed.

While an appeal against the Manila court's decision is on the way, Gutierrez said the justice department was "still studying the best action we can take."

The other day, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Guillermo Purganan of Branch 42 issued a warrant of arrest for Jimenez but allowed him to post bail of P1 million, which the judge considered a "reasonable amount."

Gutierrez would not comment on the lower court's decision but went on to explain why the Department of Justice argued strongly against allowing bail.

She cited an extradition case last year in which the accused, a Saudi Arabian named "Alaoula," surrendered his passport, posted bail, was placed on the hold departure order list, but escaped anyway.

She said there have been cases where the accused was in the hold departure list but was still able to flee through the country's backdoor.

"That is what we told the court, that we cannot have the passport extradited, we cannot extradite the bail bond," she said.

She also cited records of US extraditees jumping bail and leaving the country to avoid prosecution. *Alcuin Papa*

DECS to rely on volunteer tutors from UP

THE DEPARTMENT of Education, Culture and Sports will deploy volunteer teachers to the country's depressed and underserved areas, particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where there is a lack of teachers.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said yesterday the DECS would tap the services of teachers from the University of the Philippines, which would recruit and train the interested tutors.

In a memorandum of agreement signed by the DECS and UP officials, the volunteers would be assigned to public schools to be chosen by DECS.

Under the program, dubbed Gurong Pahinungod, DECS would waive the required units and test for program volunteers provided they had taken at least 18 units in Education and undergo special training in pedagogy.

The DECS would enlist the teachers' services for a year but the UP administration would provide their monthly stipend, transportation allowance, insurance coverage, teaching materials and other benefits. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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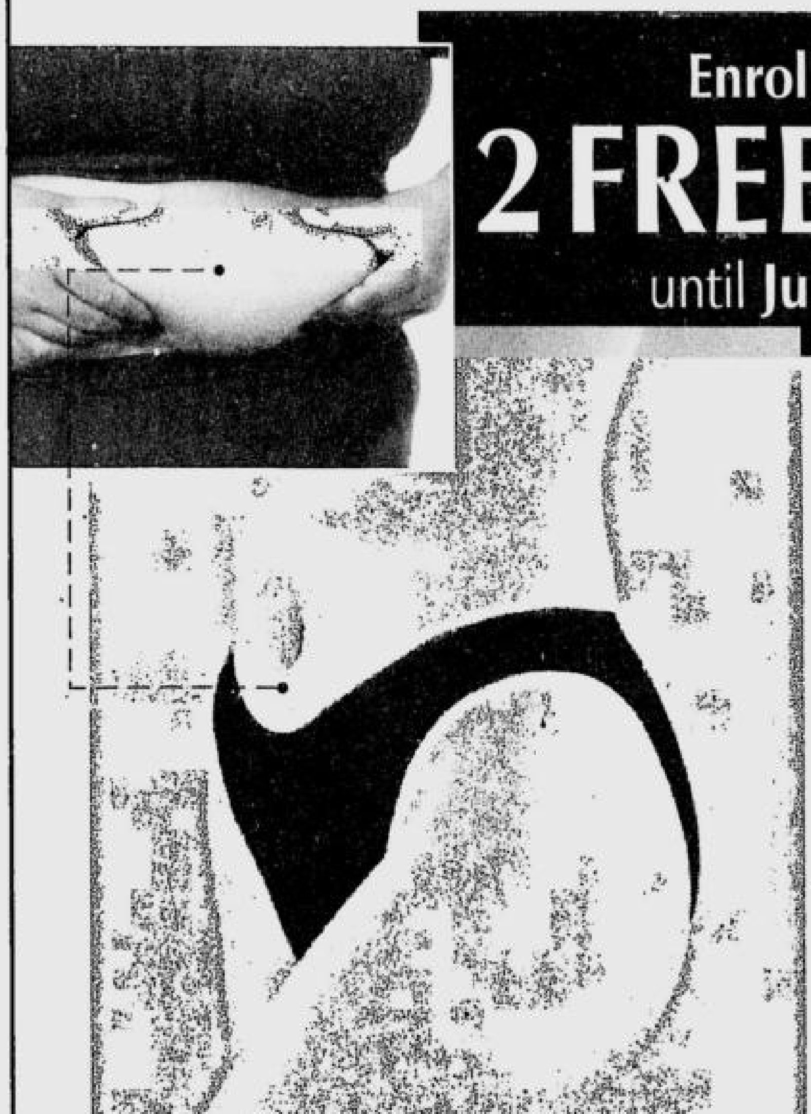

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Despite troubles, hope for RP tourism remains

THE LAUNCHING of "Visit Philippines 2003" is imminent despite travel advisories by foreign governments cautioning their nationals about visiting the country.

Harsh Varma, World Tourism Organization regional representative for East Asia and the Pacific, told Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon the WTO supports the declaration of 2003 as "Visit the Philippines Year."

Gordon is set to make the presentation for Visit Philippines 2003 in Okinawa, Japan, in September during the WTO annual conference.

This year is Visit Korea Year while next year is Visit Macau and Malaysia.

Varma was on a five-day consultative visit to the country on the invitation of the Department of Tourism. He arrived Saturday and met with the private sector, government officials and tourism industry leaders.

He was part of a technical team sent by WTO Secretary General Francesco Frangialli to present marketing strategies to the Philippines to return the country to its leading position as a favored destination in Asia.

Varma said Frangialli himself believes the Philippines has got what it takes to succeed in tourism.

In a letter to Gordon, Frangialli agreed with the secretary's assessment that Philippine tourism would grow by leaps and bounds if it is successful in presenting a positive image abroad to combat recent negative events in the country.

Varma stressed the importance of close cooperation between the private sector and the government in pushing tourism development.

He said countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia have promotion budgets ranging from $33 million to $70 million annually, while the Philippines makes do with $660,000.

Tourist arrivals in those nations in 2000 ranged from four million to 10 million, while the Philippines received only 1.8 million visitors.

"No other country in Asia has what the Philippines has—a unique mix of nature, culture, ecotourism and warm, friendly people," Varma said.

With priorities set, he said, "The Philippines can double its tourist arrivals in three to four years. We could see five million tourists by 2005 and 11 million by 2012," he said.

Top Filipino soldiers honored

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo extolled the other day the seven soldiers who were named The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers awardees this year for their exemplary service and dedication to duty.

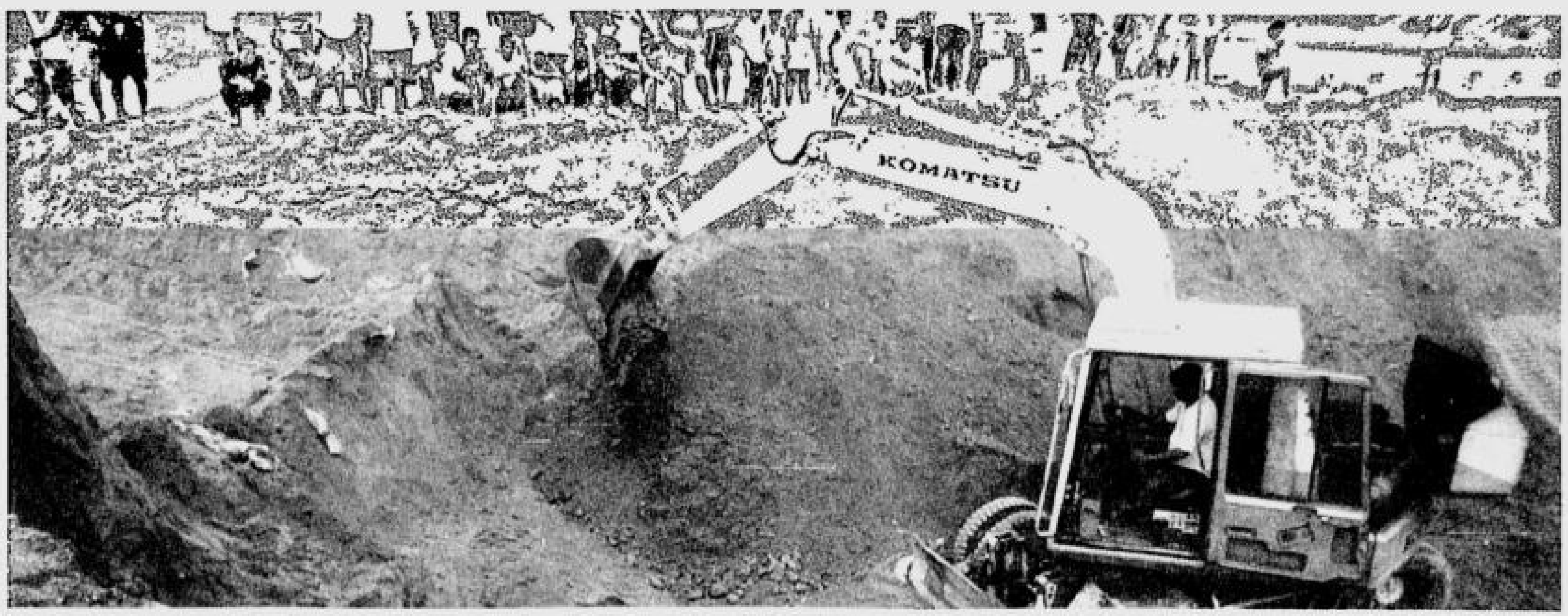
"These soldiers who have displayed exemplary gallantry, dedication and professionalism in the performance of their duty are indeed worthy of recognition," President Macapagal said in remarks to the awardees.

"They are model soldiers who give pride to their institution and provide inspiration to their fellow men in uniform," she said in her remarks during the awarding ceremonies at Malacañang.

The awardees each got trophies from the President, P50,000 in cash and a 10-year pension plan from the Pacific Plans Inc.

In the officer level, the awardees were Second Lt. Herbert Dilag of the Philippine Army, Camp Tecson, Bulacan for the combat category; Capt. Alex Espinosa of the 223rd Airlift Squadron, 220th Airlift Wing, Philippine Air Force, Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base, Lapu-Lapu City for the technical service category; and Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias of the Civil Relations Group of Mindanao, AFP Southern Command in Zamboanga City for community service.

The enlisted personnel who received the awards were Cpl. Orlando Acobera of the Philippine Army, Camp Tecson Bulacan in Bulacan for combat category; Chief Petty Officer Gil Torrente Jr., of Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City for technical service; Staff Sgt. Proceso Budiongan of the 301st Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Philippine Army, Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat for community service category; and Staff Sgt. Jose S. Rodriguez Jr. of the Philippine Navy in Lanao del Sur for the leadership category. *Christine Avendaño*



A BACKHOE digs near the Cavetecan Bridge on the Pasig-Potrero River in Bacolor, Pampanga, searching for a metal drum believed to contain the remains of casino worker and whistleblower Edgardo Bentain, as alleged by "Ador," a civilian PAOCTF agent who claimed to know what really happened to Bentain.
(See story on Page 1.)
EDWIN BACASMAS

'Want to buy 20-yr-old presidential plane, cheap?'

By TJ Burgonio

FOR SALE: 20-year-old presidential plane, will be good as new after maintenance work. Contact Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., Philippine Air Force.

Defensor said yesterday he was confident the PAF could still find buyers for the presidential Fokker F-28 and that it might still bring in $1 million.

He said the plane would be "good as new" after it undergoes long overdue maintenance work at the Fokker repair facility in Singapore later this year.

"It's more than 20 years old but it's a good aircraft," Defensor said in an interview.

At the 54th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force last Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo instructed Defensor to sell the plane and use the proceeds toward the Air Force modernization fund.

Defensor had earlier recommended that Ms Macapagal replace the plane, which was acquired in the late '70s, with a new one for her safety. Like former President Joseph Estrada, Ms Macapagal charters a private jet for her aircraft requirements.

"This type of plane, brand new, is priced between $20 to $30 million. Since this one is already old, we'll be lucky if we can get one-fourth or one-fifth the price," Defensor said.

At present, only 70 of the Air Force fleet of 130 aircraft are in good flying condition.

The Air Force may soon be acquiring additional aircraft, however, after Ms Macapagal announced during the anniversary that the US government is donating a C-130 plane and four Huey helicopters to the Philippines this year.

Sandigan drops graft raps vs ex-agri official

By Martin P. Marfil

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday dismissed four graft charges against former agriculture secretary Senen Bacani and several of his subordinates after the Office of the Ombudsman admitted it blundered and asked that the charges be withdrawn.

In a resolution, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro said the Ombudsman's request that the charges be withdrawn was "meritorious."

Cleared in the decision along with Bacani were former agriculture undersecretary Dante Barbosa, chief accountant Ophelia Agawin, former Bureau of Soils and Water Management director Godofredo Alcasid Jr. and Department of Agriculture resident auditor Epifanio Buno.

Businessman Carlo Magno and several others included in the charges were also cleared.

The four DA officials were charged with having entered into anomalous contracts for the printing of maps and information material between July 1991 and December 1992 with a publishing firm owned by Magno.

They were alleged to have diverted some P76 million from "Fund 101" and another P21 million from the funds allotted for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program to fulfill the contract.

They were also accused of overpricing.

Fund 101 was the product of a memorandum of agreement between the Philippine and Japanese governments, which allotted money for the purchase of fertilizers and seeds.

But in a resolution dated Sept. 19, 2000, the Ombudsman admitted it made a mistake as it relied on the "whereas clause" of the MOA, which stated, "Whereas, self-sufficiency in cereals can only be attained with the appropriate use of fertilizers and high-yielding seeds by farmers."

It said it concluded from this clause that the money was supposed to be used solely for the purchase of fertilizers and high-yielding seeds.

"However, a careful review reveals (that) the original interpretation of this office was erroneous as it is clear . . . that there was no such intention to limit the application of the trust fund . . . ," the Ombudsman said.

It added that there was "even more basis" in the MOA that allowed the use of the funds for the purchase of printed materials since these could be used for the promotion of agricultural development.

This, the Ombudsman said, was contained in a second "whereas clause" which stated that the DA was responsible for the promotion of agricultural development.

On allegations that there was overpricing, the Ombudsman said that the Commission on Audit itself did not categorize the deal as anomalous.

The Ombudsman added that those accused in the overpricing were also deprived of their "basic" right to be confronted in writing of the accusations.

Jail chief's ouster sought after large numbers escape

By Alcuin Papa

EMPLOYEES of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology have sought the relief of their chief because of the large number of inmates who have escaped from BJMP jails throughout the country in the first half of the year.

The employees, from the rank and file, asked Interior Secretary Joey Lina yesterday to relieve immediately BJMP Chief Supt. Arturo Alit for the escape of 74 convicts through July 4 this year "under anomalous circumstances."

The INQUIRER could not confirm the number of escapees since the BJMP only reveals this figure in its annual report.

"'Reports showed BJMP inmates were allowed to escape under hefty payoff arrangements, usually funded by organized crime syndicates," read a statement from the employees' group led by Supt. Renato Gacutan.

The employees also pointed to the recent escape of the principal suspect in the Bacalla murder case, Onofre Surat, and the escape of 18 inmates from the Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, jail.

The BJMP employees said Alit was officer-in-charge of the bureau when suspected drug trafficker Yu Yuk Lai was allowed out of hospital detention and was caught gambling at the Casino Filipino in Manila August of last year.

The employees had earlier sent a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo calling for Alit's relief and an investigation into his educational background.

According to the employees, 49 inmates escaped from BJMP jails from January to May of this year alone.

In Region I, four convicts escaped but two were recaptured and two are still at large.

In Region IV and IV-A, two convicts escaped and remain at large.

In Region V, two convicts escaped and are free.

In Region VI, four convicts got away while one from Region VII was reported to have bolted detention.

In Region IX, two convicts escaped but were recaptured.

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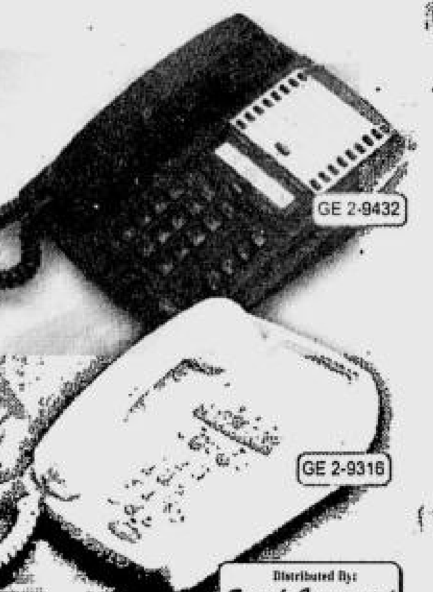

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1900, Series of 2001

Basilan bandits pound barangay with mortar fire

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT

ISABELA CITY, Basilan – Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Hasmsiraji Sali, also known as Commander Jose, pounded barangay Cabunbata here with mortar and rifle grenade at around 11:25 .m. on Wednesday.

Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the Abu Sayyaf did not fire on specific targets.

"It was very indiscriminate. There was no specific target. They just wanted to harass (the people), Sua told the INQUIRER.

At least 9 mortar shells and 3 rifle grenades fell on the village, which is about 5 kilometers from the city proper.

During the succeeding fires, one of the grenades hit the house of the Dolino family in Purok 1. The family, terrorized by earlier shelling, had already abandoned the house when it was hit.

Militiamen were immediately deployed to help fleeing residents.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said the Abu Sayyaf was trying to divert the military's attention from their jungle lair to the urban centers.

In an effort to pre-empt similar attacks, Sua deployed more military personnel in this city.

They were ordered to put up blocking forces along with the local militia.

Akbar also urged the police to double their security measures.

Akbar did not agree with the claim of freed hostages Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista III that the Abu Sayyaf treated them like visitors.

He said their liberty was due to the payment of ransom and not goodwill on the part of the Abu Sayaff.

"I don't believe they were treated as visitors. Pray tell do you let your visitors sleep just anywhere? Make them walk everywhere and threaten to behead them if they could not raise ransom?" Akbar said.

He said that Chua's statements were a mere "reflection of fear."

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, himself a former Abu Sayyaf captive, aired the same observation.

."There is no such thing as a good vacation in the jungles with Abu Sayyaf,'' Nacorda said.

The Abu Sayyaf has threatened to abduct reporters who have flocked to the province. *With reports from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Abu issued 'receipts ' for ransom payments

(From page A1)

also maintains its own armed group in Basilan.

According to Lalaine, the other hostage victim, Luis "Chito" Bautista III who was freed with her, was also given a copy of his picture similarly marked "paid" at the back.

Lalaine's family reportedly paid P6 million; Bautista paid P500,000.

In an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER, Lalaine's father, Benito, went on record to confirm that indeed ransom was paid.

"I can earn back the money paid. What is important now is that Lalaine is back with us, her family."

An intelligence agency privy to the negotiation of Lalaine's release revealed that Abu Sabaya was willing to free Lalaine for P3 million, but the intelligence report shows: "Other players came into the picture."

Chua who is into the auto-spare parts business had to close down and sell his factory in Caloocan to raise the amount needed for Lalaine's freedom.

A week before Lalaine's release, Abu Sabaya called this reporter from his satellite phone to say that: "Negotiators are responsible for raising the ransom demand for Lalaine." Sabaya did not name names.

When asked why he was allowing the negotiators to call the shots, Sabaya replied: "*Pròblema na nila iyon* (That's their problem)."

An independent source who was initially "considered" as a "conduit" said the group responsible for the negotiation for Reghis Romero's release and the Recio family was the same group that worked for Lalaine's release.

Payoff in 2 stages

The payoff for Lalaine came in two stages.

The ransom money in cash was delivered to a "conduit" in Metro Manila.

Intelligence reports from Camp Crame revealed that a former "hostage" from Dos Palmas was tapped to bring the money to Zamboanga City.

In Zamboanga, another "conduit," a Tausug, received the money from the former hostage.

The source said the Abu Sayyaf did not use the same method of payoff. For every batch of hostages freed, there was a unique "channel." The Abu Sayyaf was careful not to establish a discernible pattern.

In the case of Kimberly Jao and lawyer Francis Ganzon, who were released on June 16, the payment was done in Zamboanga.

A private van was used to pick up the money from a representative of the Jao family in front of a hotel in Zamboanga City.

'Richest' hostage

Chua decried the projection of his daughter as the richest among the Filipino hostages abducted in Palawan, "sadly," according to Chua, by the other hostages earlier released by the Abu Sayyaf.

Chua did not name names but said that, "Abu Sabaya told me one of the hostages told him, Lalaine's family can pay P10 million so they asked for P10 million."

At that time, Chua told Sabaya that he could only raise P1.5 million.

True friends

"I realize that in a crisis such as the one we faced, you would be able to see who are your true friends," Chua said.

Chua's wife and children vacationed in Dos Palmas with good friends, the Jao family. The Jaos' daughter, Kimberly, is Lalaine's bosom buddy.

Kimberly's mother, Letty Jao, "escaped" on June 3. Kimberly was released by the Abu Sayyaf reportedly for a lesser amount.

Still grateful

Even if they had to pay ransom, the Chuas are grateful for all the help given them by the government.

"I know they did their best to secure the safety of my daughter and the other hostages but we have no choice but to directly deal with the kidnappers," he explained.

Chua continued: "If I did not pay, I would endanger the life of my daughter, so even if I have inadequate resources, I tried my best to come up with the acceptable amount."

According to Chua, Sabaya told him in one phone call that they would kill Lalaine if ransom was not paid.

"I had no choice," said Chua. "She's my daughter."

Talibans training 50 Abus–Biazon

(From page A1)

group ruling Afghanistan, as "an Islamic fundamentalist group."

Biazon's revelation came as a highly respected general lamented that "the Abu Sayyaf is treating our soldiers like they're a bunch of boy scouts."

The general, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Abu Sayyaf bandits were supposed to be on the run with thousands of soldiers hot on their heels.

"They're supposed to be running scared but they're not. They're only evading in order to launch their own strikes," the general said.

Relieve officers

For his part, retired General Ramon Montano urged Malacañang to start relieving military officers for their failure to produce results in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

"Heads should now roll but these should not be of the hostages but of military commanders who offer only explanations for their failures instead of accomplishments," said Montano, former deputy chief for operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and former head of the now defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Biazon, who chairs the Senate panel on national security and defense, would not say whether Osama bin Ladin, an international terrorist wanted by the United States, was footing the bill for the training.

Biazon said he met with Arcilla, who used to head the UN international office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, last month when he attended a UN forum in New York.

US intelligence

On June 6, Biazon told a forum at the Philippine Center in New York City, that UN officials had told him of the

50 Filipinos training in Afghanistan. Biazon said the UN officials based their information on US intelligence reports.

The senator, a former chief of the Philippine Marines and of the AFP, said in Manila yesterday that he did not see Arcilla's report.

Biazon said he would ask the country's chief of mission to the UN to send him a copy of the report.

"That could tell us that you would again deal with a group of 50 well-trained potential terrorists. And since they are members of the ASG, we will have to contend with a strengthened ASG," he said.

Biazon recalled that the founder of the Abu Sayyaf, Abdurajak Janjanlani, and its original core members, were trained in Afghanistan. They fought alongside Afghan warriors in the war against Russian occupation forces in the 1980s.

"When the Afghan war ended in 1989, these Afghan veterans headed by Janjalani came back to the country and probably having nothing to do, they organized the ASG in 1992," Biazon said.

Biazon then asked the country's intelligence agencies to look into the matter and work through diplomatic channels to "prevent the movement of potential terrorists" into the country.

But he said he was not told whether the 50 suspected ASG members were still in training or whether they had already arrived in the country.

He said he would file a resolution seeking an inquiry into the matter.

Biazon yesterday filed a resolution calling for the immediate convening of the National Security Council.

He said the NSC should look into security problems like the ASG, communist rebels and other internal threats.

Time for fresh faces, ideas

Montano, who once hunted down communists rebel leaders as well as then coup leader and now Sen. Gregorio Honasan, recalled the times when military officers were relieved on the spot for sloppy performance.

"I can say these things because we passed through these. During our time, if we fail our mission, we get relieved," Montano said.

"It's now time for fresh faces and ideas, for new commanders to be put in place," Montano said. "The relief of officers can even go as high as the top brass and not just confined to Basilan."

Another retired general, Lisandro Abadia, a former AFP chief of staff, noted that "generalship" was a big factor in military campaigns.

"Generalship is leadership and this applies whether you're a general or just a colonel," Abadia said. "There are no lousy units nor lousy soldiers."

Abadia said the public was getting impatient over the protracted campaign because they had expected immediate results.

"The public sentiment is one of frustration that is building up because they cannot understand why the military cannot put an end to the Abu Sayyaf problem," Abadia said.

"Even we retired officers get hurt when we read in the papers that hostages are released not because they were rescued but because ransom was paid," he said.

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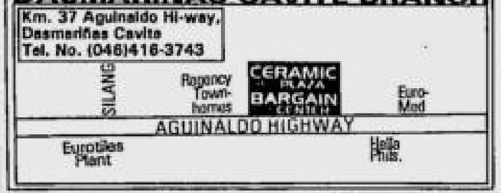

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Erap lawyers press for Badoy inhibition

By Martin P. Marfil
and Michael Lim Ubac

LAWYERS of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada yesterday sought anew to have the Sandiganbayan third division chair, Justice Anacleto Badoy, inhibited from hearing the plunder case against the deposed leader.

In a supplemental motion, they accused Badoy of delaying the decision on two motions, filed on June 27 and June 28, that would have allowed the jailed Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to attend the oath-taking of San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, and for Jinggoy, the then mayor of San Juan, to administer oath of office to his mother, Senator-elect Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and to JV on June 29.

The lawyers alleged that Badoy deliberately delayed the resolution of the two motions and deprived his colleagues of the opportunity to participate in its resolution.

In a related development, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto has sought to end the "hospital arrest" of the Estrada father and son by asking the Sandiganbayan to seek a second opinion on the state of their health from the Philippine General Hospital.

In a three-page motion, Desierto said that if Estrada and Jinggoy, who were both arrested for plunder but are undergoing a prolonged medical examination at the Veteran Memorial Medical Center, no longer needed hospitalization, they should be returned back to their original Camp Crame detention center.

"We need to uphold the law and the rules on detention of prisoners," Desierto said.

Estrada's defense lawyers said Badoy's division had issued the resolution denying their motions only after 5 p.m. on June 29.

According to lawyers Cleofe Verzola and Fernando Carao, they filed the supplemental motion because of the annotations made by two of Badoy's colleagues who said they were informed of the resolution late in the day.

Justices Ricardo Ilarde and Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, had noted that "the matter was moot and academic."

The lawyers said "the chairman's resolution was brought before the two justices long after 2 p.m. of June 29, the date and time when the oaths were requested to be administered."

They said Badoy's action "generates a well-grounded belief on the part of the Estradas that they can never obtain justice from the court if… Badoy continues to sit as chairman or member of the… third division."

They cited the third division's June 9 resolution where the justices denied house arrest for the Estradas, including Badoy's "epilogue" that accompanied it.

They also pointed out that Badoy had denied Jinggoy's plea to be given an additional 15 days to wind up his affairs at the San Juan municipal hall.

In the motion he filed last Wednesday, Desierto said the PGH examination would validate the findings of the doctors at the Veterans hospital who claimed the continued hospitalization of the Estradas was imperative for various medical reasons.

The Estradas were transferred from their bungalow detention cell in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on May 12, to the heavily guarded government hospital in Quezon City, ostensibly to monitor their health. Estrada is said to be suffering from bronchitis and arthritis and Jinggoy is under medication for heart problems.

"If hospitalization is no longer needed, then the two should be brought to Camp Crame," Desierto said.

Desierto pointed out that the two should stay inside a detention cell since they are under preventive detention. He said hospitalization should not be utilized to circumvent the law.

Desierto made the move amid accusations that the government appeared to be going soft on the indicted ex-president.

Dengue alert up; 42 dead so far

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday urged communities and schools to rid themselves of the breeding places of the dengue mosquito, noting that the number of dengue cases nationwide had increased with the onset of the rainy season.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said 42 deaths had been recorded from the 4,342 cases of dengue fever reported nationwide from January to June 29.

He said although the number of cases was higher for the same period last year, it was still within the "expected range." But he warned the DOH was expecting a "big" epidemic this year based on the epidemic pattern of dengue.

"It is only with being vigilant with cleanliness and in the destruction of breeding sites can we control the epidemic," Dayrit said.

The regions with the highest number of cases were the National Capital Region with 1,099 and Central Visayas with 986.

Dayrit said clusters of cases were noted in Bo. Malaria, Tala, Caloocan; Reparo St. in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan; Sapang Palay in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan; Pinagdeniayan, Dolores, Quezon; Banago, Mandalagan, Taculing and Tangub in Bacolod City.

He added an outbreak was reported in Zamboanga City but assured residents in the area that the local government and the city health office were already moving to contain the spread of the virus.

Dayrit urged local health authorities to conduct insect surveys to identify and destroy breeding sites of mosquitoes.

According to DOH bulletins, the common breeding places of the dengue-carrying *Aedis aegypti* mosquitoes are water-filled flower vases, roof gutters, old tires, coconut husks and discarded cans and bottles.

The dengue virus attacks the bloodstream, resulting in the rupture of capillaries, bleeding, excruciating pain and even death.

Wycoco appointment faces rough sailing

NAGA CITY—Even before he could be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, National Bureau of Investigation chief Reynaldo Wycoco is facing a P12.5-million damage suit.

The civil suit was filed by Renato Laurenaria, the former head of the Traffic and Management Group's Task Force Limbas special unit, as part of a series of moves by the ex-policeman to block Wycoco's confirmation.

Laurenaria, who was elected mayor of Castilla town in Sorsogon in 1998, filed the civil suit before the Regional Trial Court Branch 53 in Sorsogon City.

Wycoco, who has twice asked the court for an extension, must submit his answer not later than July 15.

Aside from the P12.5-million suit, Laurenaria filed a complaint before the Ombudsman last year and plans to file a criminal case of "perjury and incriminatory machination" against Wycoco.

Laurenaria said Wycoco had allegedly framed him in an extortion case.

The civil suit stemmed from an extortion case which a certain Luisto Acoba Andres had filed at the Regional Trial Court Branch 96 in Quezon City.

Andres had alleged that Task Force Limbas operatives had extorted P500,000 from him after he was arrested while driving an allegedly stolen vehicle.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 6, 2001
13th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gen 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: *What I want is mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

Matthew wants to make it clear to the people that Jesus' mission was not to abolish the Law but to bring it to perfection. In today's reading it becomes clear that the old interpretation of the law produced sinners and outcasts. It brings division and destruction. Jesus counters this interpretation by calling a public sinner, a tax collector, to become his disciple and by eating with tax collectors and sinners. His mission is one of healing, not of inflicting further wounds. For those who do not understand this action, he makes it clear that the prime function of the law is to teach people compassion.

Heavenly Father, You are a God of compassion. Teach us to understand your law as a call to life and as an instrument of healing.

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PCGG to summon Irene, Greggy over German caper

(From page A1)

vestigate the alleged money-laundering attempt.

"It's a very sensitive disclosure," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said of the report of the delegation, which returned recently after meeting with Swiss and German officials involved in the case.

"What we can say at this point is that that article that came out is largely accurate," he said, referring to the INQUIRER banner story on the German investigation into the Aranetas' alleged "preparation" to launder Swiss funds, believed to run into billions of dollars, through the German bank.

Full report

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is still in the course of obtaining clearance from the German government to disclose the findings of an investigation led by the Dusseldorf's prosecutor's office, according to Tiglao.

He said Perez had yet to present to President Macapagal-Arroyo his "full report" on the reported latest evidence of the fabled Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

"There was a panel which went to Germany consisting of both the PCGG and justice department people who formally requested the (German) justice ministry for certain documents," Tiglao said in a statement.

"It's a bit sensitive because these are bank records . . . so Secretary Nani Perez is getting clearance for exact details, which he could release to the press," Tiglao said.

The Dusseldorf prosecutor's office closed the investigation on March 29 because no money was transferred from UBS to Deutsche Bank in the four weeks that the accounts remained opened.

Appeal to Swiss

Sarmiento, one of the members of the Philippine delegation, would not corroborate the statements of Johannes Mocken, spokesperson of the Dusseldorf prosecutor's office, that Irene had tried to transfer funds from Switzerland to Germany.

Instead, he encouraged Swiss investigators to continue their aborted investigation of the Aranetas' confirmed attempt to transfer Marcos funds kept in Account No. 885931 at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich to the Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf.

He said the PCGG would furnish the Swiss investigators a copy of the German intelligence report as soon as the DOJ and PCGG review the translated document.

He said the German government did not provide the Swiss investigators documents on the Araneta couple's alleged money-laundering scheme, forcing the suspension of the Swiss investigation.

Ironically, the Philippine delegation did not get much help from the Swiss authorities when they visited Switzerland for a week, although the Swiss government promised in May to help the Philippines track down the Araneta accounts, sources told the INQUIRER.

The Swiss made the offer a month after Zurich prosecutor Dieter Jann told German authorities that Irene had no accounts at UBS. Jann's declaration stymied the German prosecutor's investigation of the alleged money-laundering attempt.

Sarmiento and PCGG research director Danilo Daniel, along with representatives of the DOJ and Office of the Solicitor General, met with officials of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission and the Federal Department of Justice and Police in Zurich.

Swiss representatives led by Jann have pledged to help in the investigation if the Philippine government furnishes them with the necessary papers, according to Sarmiento.

'Conflicting reports'

Sarmiento stressed, however, that the results of the German inquiry would "not necessarily supercede" a PCGG-commissioned report by international auditing firm Price Waterhouse Cooper Inc., which said Account No. 885931 had been closed since 1999 and did not belong to Irene or any Marcos relative.

"What we have are conflicting reports, and we will know along the course of the investigation which one is true," Sarmiento said.

"They insisted that there was really no $13.2 billion in that account. They really did their work, but you have to understand that this was done prior to the events in Germany," said Sarmiento, who met with representatives of Price Waterhouse Cooper during the delegation's stay in Zurich.

Former UBS spokesperson Gertrude Erismann-Peyer admitted in 1991 that the bank maintained Marcos accounts, but claimed they only contained a few million dollars.

Christoph Meier, the new spokesperson for UBS, said that information on the Araneta accounts at the bank was based on "old rumors" and was both unfounded and unverified.

Up to Swiss

German officials in Dusseldorf recently told the INQUIRER that they could reopen the case if Philippine or Swiss authorities uncovered new evidence of her alleged Swiss accounts.

The Dusseldorf prosecutor's office said it is up to the Swiss to establish whether Araneta had deposits at UBS. Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, of which Germany is a member country.

"We're not allowed to make any investigations outside (of Germany)," said Mocken of the Dusseldorf prosecutor's office. "We're not allowed to take the investigation (to Zurich).

UBS is in Switzerland, we are in Germany."

He added: "If the Swiss tell us there is no money at UBS, that's the end for us."

David Chaikin, an Australian expert on the alleged Marcos wealth, told a recent international conference on anti-money laundering efforts that "the Swiss banks and the Swiss government deny that there is any other Marcos accounts in Switzerland. But since 1986, the Marcos family has tried through numerous intermediaries to withdraw money from Swiss bank accounts that they believe is theirs."

"The question is how do you prove that a Swiss bank has an account with the Marcos family when the bank denies this? Circumstantial evidence has its limits, although there is plenty of such evidence here," Chaikin told the IFEX International Fraud Convention Conference held in London from June 26-28.

Militant groups in Metro Manila yesterday urged the government to file charges against the Aranetas. The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the People Power II-installed Macapagal administration owes it to the people to seriously pursue the recovery of the fabled Marcos billions.

Open secret

"That is an open secret. But why hasn't the government done anything about it?" Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño lamented.

In a phone interview, Casiño criticized previous administrations for entering into "questionable compromise deals with the Marcos family," referring to at least one deal with the Ramos administration, which was nullified by local courts.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya also renewed calls for the filing of criminal charges against the Aranetas.

In a press statement, Pamalakaya asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to speed up the recovery of the alleged Marcos ill-gotten wealth and put an end to long agonizing years of "treasure-hunting escapades."

Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said the Araneta couple should be made to "join their colleagues now facing plunder and other criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan," referring to ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy.

Pamalakaya urged the government to immediately notify the Swiss and German governments that the Filipino people want to regain full control of hard-earned billions allegedly stolen by the Marcoses during their 20-year rule.

Tiglao a victim

In Malacañang, Tiglao said he hoped the government could expedite the other ticklish issue of rewarding compensation to nearly 10,000 victims of martial law. He said meetings were being scheduled for next week between the government and a group of human rights claimants led by Rep. Etta Rosales.

"I hope they do so because I'm a claimant. I'll be getting $150,000 if that's released so I cannot push it," said Tiglao, who is among the 9,569 plaintiffs who won a celebrated class-action suit filed against the Marcos estate.

Tiglao was imprisoned in Camps Crame and Aguinaldo in 1973 and 1974. "I was unjustly jailed and beaten up during the martial law regime so I filed for compensation," he said.

He added that the President planned to meet with former Commission on Elections chair Haydee Yorac to convince her to accept the offered post of PCGG chair. *With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Deutsche Bank

THE Deutsche Bank Branch in Dusseldorf where Irene and husband Greggy Araneta opened new accounts in their attempt to launder their funds from Union Bank of Switzerland. The couple and their party entered through the front door but exited via the bank's back door after their transaction.

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MODEL : CANTER FE515

TERM		12	18	24	36	48	60
%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20.0%	134,000	48,990	33,899	27,032	19,409	15,646	14,170
25.0%	167,500	45,928	31,781	25,342	18,196	14,668	13,284
30.0%	201,000	42,866	29,662	23,653	16,983	13,690	12,399
35.0%	234,500	39,804	27,543	21,963	15,770	12,712	11,513
40.0%	268,000	36,743	25,425	20,274	14,557	11,735	10,627
45.0%	301,500	33,681	23,306	18,584	13,344	10,757	9,742
50.0%	335,000	30,619	21,187	16,895	12,131	9,779	8,856

MODEL : CANTER FE635

TERM		12	18	24	36	48	60
%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20.0%	149,000	54,474	37,694	30,057	21,582	17,398	15,756
25.0%	186,250	51,069	35,338	28,179	20,233	16,310	14,771
30.0%	223,500	47,665	32,982	26,300	18,884	15,223	13,786
35.0%	260,750	44,260	30,627	24,422	17,536	14,135	12,802
40.0%	298,000	40,856	28,271	22,543	16,187	13,048	11,817
45.0%	335,250	37,451	25,916	20,665	14,838	11,961	10,832
50.0%	372,500	34,046	23,559	18,786	13,489	10,873	9,847

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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 208
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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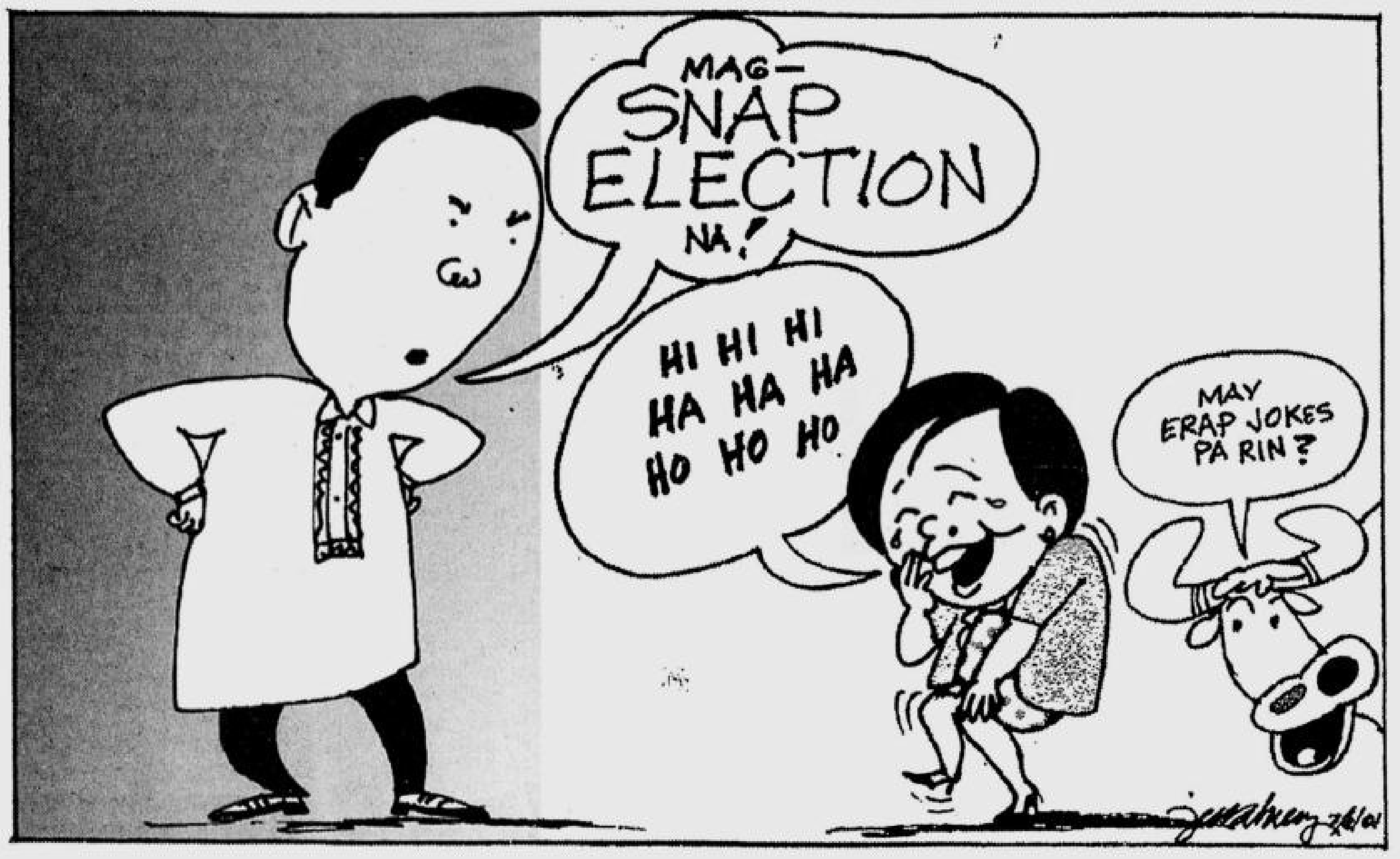


Without purpose

EDITORIALS

THE BEST reason to scrap the Reserve Officers Training Corps is the argument from practice, the sorry way the program has been implemented all these many years.

Designed to help create a pool of able and skilled reservists, the program has instead produced millions of bored college students who learn one basic survival skill: how to pass the time while enduring the afternoon heat.

Instead of sparking a sustainable interest in military science and tactics among the country's youth, the program effectively douses that interest through meaningless field maneuvers, irrelevant lectures or outright corruption.

Nothing kills patriotism or the sense of civic duty quite as fast as rumors of privileged students being given special consideration—like exemption granted on the strength of spurious medical certificates, do-nothing transportation committees for cadets who can lend their cars to officers and various other forms of "special duty."

At ground level, the level where the bored cadet meets the barking officer, the notion that the program traces its roots to the National Defense Act of 1935, that the program is a form of military training that will provide the country a second line of defense, is altogether distant, perhaps even non-existent. This is the unpleasant truth: At ground level, millions of college students are merely going through the motions, simply because the course is an academic requirement that needs to be met. No sense of higher purpose animates the program at all.

RA 7077, which amended the National Defense Act in 1991, expanded the ROTC, allowing cadets to enroll in civic welfare or law enforcement as an alternative to military training. This has only made matters worse. A program that has lost its sense of purpose is now more confused than ever. At the risk of belaboring the obvious, what is the ROTC, after all, but an organized attempt to train future military officers?

The well-intentioned suggestion by senators like Juan Flavier, who has filed a bill to make the ROTC optional and another one to allow law enforcement and community service as alternative courses (hence duplicating RA 7077), misses the whole point. Either there is a need to train military reserve officers, or there is none. These halfway measures (other bills of a similar nature have been filed by Senators Sergio Osmeña III, Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay and Rodolfo Biazon) must be seen for what they really are: band aid applied to a festering wound, one which requires surgery.

New generation

THE BRUTAL murder of Mark Welson Chua, the engineering student of the University of Santo Tomas who exposed certain anomalies in the ROTC, may have triggered the current explosive debate. But we think a generational shift helps explain why the ROTC issue has become so emotional so quickly.

The walkout last weekend by thousands of ROTC cadets in various Metro Manila schools dramatized the opposition to the program as it is being implemented.

It could be that the walkout may have been nothing more than a typical school lark for many of the cadets, the usual act of truancy but now disguised as a noble cause. After all, the struggle between restless youths who prize their individual freedom and their long hair and a crew-cut military training program is an old one, predating the Chua murder or even the dramatic statement issued by a consortium of nine University Belt schools that called on the government to excise the ROTC "cancer." But there is more to this walkout, or to the current debate.

It was the text generation, after all, that powered Edsa II. Almost by definition, many of the country's ROTC cadets form part of this generational movement. They are almost the same young people, at one time estimated to number some four million, who were disfranchised in the May 14 elections. The historical record suggests that these young men and women are driven by a sense of national purpose, by a desire to be agents of lasting change.

The distance between the pathetic "military training" they receive, and the sense of purpose and participation that moves them, is striking. It is one more reason why the ROTC, in its present incarnation, should be abolished.

Bigger robbery in GSIS 'loyalty incentive plan'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE OFFICIALS of Government Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) can very well afford to get the big cuts in salaries announced by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. If the Government Service Insurance System is any indication, a richer pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow has not yet been discovered by Malacañang or the budget department. This is the retirement, or pension plan for GSIS officials and employees. They call it the "loyalty incentive plan." Retiring from the GSIS, under this plan—which is illegal, according to lawyers and former GSIS officials—is like winning the lotto. In fact, there is now a scramble for GSIS vice presidents to take an early retirement because the pecuniary prize is just irresistible. They are afraid that once discovered, their retirement plan would be revised. It simply cannot be allowed to continue, legally and morally. One vice president who is traveling abroad, afraid he would be caught when the roof caves in, simply faxed his retirement application to the GSIS.

Two vice presidents have already succeeded in getting an early retirement. One got P20 million, the other P12 million.

A look at the GSIS retirement plan will show how top management, including the board of trustees, are raiding the money of hundreds of thousands of government employees. While teachers, for instance, get a pittance when they retire, GSIS officials become instant multi-millionaires when they retire. For although all GSIS members are supposed to be under the same insurance and retirement system, GSIS personnel have a different, richer retirement plan.

For themselves, the GSIS management combined the best features of the lump sum gratuity and the monthly pension. They have the best of both worlds. A vice president can get as much as P20 million in lump sum and P100,000 monthly pension. Even personnel who have previously retired under applicable retirement laws are entitled to the loyalty incentive plan. Even members of the board of trustees, whose appointments are co-terminus with the President, are included in the incentive plan. After all, they have to approve it before it can be implemented so they have to benefit, too. Almost 200 personnel of the Commission on Audit are assigned to the GSIS as watchdogs. COA personnel are like private auditors who police the corporation's finances. But because they are paid by the GSIS (about P100 million a year) and the in-house auditor gets all the perks, such as free cars and bonuses, that board members and top management officials get, they keep their eyes, ears and mouths shut.

It had not always been like that in the GSIS in the early days. GSIS personnel used to be among the lowest paid compared to other GOCCs and GFIs.

The steep rise in the salaries, allowances, retirement and other benefits of GSIS personnel started in 1997 or 1998 when Amante Rimando became officer in charge. Rimando was on old timer in the GSIS whom Chair/President Cesar Sarino promoted to executive vice president. When Sarino resigned, Rimando became OIC.

To court the troublesome GSIS unions, Rimando gave them all sorts of benefits: 13th month pay, medical, dental and optical expenses, rice allowance, grocery allowance, transportation allowance and generous retirement plans. Of course, management got more. They got interest-free car loans, 60 percent of which is subsidized; the officials pay only 40 percent. And everybody got an 8th-month salary loan. Officials and employees can get a salary loan of from P150,000 to P1.2 million. And because the GSIS was like a gold mine, everybody wanted to get in and the hiring of new employees ballooned so that now the GSIS is one of the most overmanned government agencies. In spite of the bloated manpower, however, delivery of services to its members is very slow.

But the most generous of benefits under Rimando's brief tenure is the retirement plan for top management. Perhaps the reason was that he was retiring six months after he became OIC. Talk of feathering one's nest.

In the wanton raids on the GSIS funds, no thought was given to the future plight of its members. A vice president in charge of guarding the members' insurance funds, will receive P20 million when he retires.

When Federico Pascual came in as chief of the GSIS, he did not do anything to check the abuses. And obviously Winston Garcia not only did not check it but joined in.

Obviously, the budget department and the COA must look into this overly generous GSIS incentive plan. Malacañang must order an immediate freeze before everybody retires and GSIS funds are depleted. And the Ombudsman and the appropriate Senate committee must investigate the GSIS and charges filed for illegal acts committed.

The same abuses may be happening in other GOCCs and GFIs, especially the Social Security System which is considered the richer twin of the GSIS. Cutting the salaries of top executives is not enough. They're only the tip of the iceberg. A mere resolution by the board members can increase their allowances. Greed does strange things to otherwise sensible people.

The Rot in the C

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THAT something drastic needs to be done with the Reserve Officers Training Corps program is universally acknowledged. There are credible and widespread reports of corruption which, in the case of the University of Sto. Tomas Corps, resulted in the murder of the whistle-blower. "Smart ones pay, suckers stay" is hardly a way of instilling either discipline, honor, or military preparedness. The program is also widely seen as inefficient and expensive. Something must be done. But what?

The choices left are to drastically reform it or to abolish it. Token reforms and appeals to platitudes come too late. The rot is too deep.

There are really three programs run by the military in schools. The first, CAT, is completed in high school and consists principally of buying uniforms and parade drill. The second is the basic two-year ROTC program which is a requisite for graduation and which replicates what was already done in high school, except that new uniforms need to be purchased to do it.

Finally, we have the 4,000 or so annually who complete the advanced ROTC course by opting to stay in the ROTC for two more years. This is the only productive part of the program as it introduces civilian-oriented officers who are not academy graduates into the military. Some of these cadets have risen all the way to chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

The first two parts of the program are impractical and next to useless. The pool of 12 million reservists produced by the system over the last 30 years have zero military value. There is no periodic retraining. The government has no arms or ammunition to supply them, nor vehicles nor ships to carry them to a front. By the time they got there, the war would either be over or they would be merely targets for the smart, high-tech weapons of our enemies, as the Iraqis were during the Gulf War.

The military doctrine that underpins the current ROTC system, born of the movements en masse on the European continent during World War I, is therefore not merely obsolete but suicidal. If a crisis comes, all the ROTC drill in the world is useless in the Spratleys. And the only sane person who would send untrained and ill-armed reservists off to fight the New People's Army or the Abu Sayyaf might be the owner of a mortuary.

So why are we still doing this? Principally because we have always been doing it and because nothing so comforts the military mind like the dead doctrine of the past. The logical thing would be to abolish the first two programs in this trinity. What little money is available to students in high school should be spent on books and food, not on CAT uniforms. And extra-curricular activities—ranging from basketball to dramatics and chess—teach as much about civics, if not more.

The requirement for a two-year ROTC course as a pre-requisite for graduation should also be abolished. Calling it optional is like giving everyone the option of liking cod liver oil: it is an option no one will take. There is no need to provide alternative non-military service although civilian clones of the ROTC program already exist. Life is a better teacher. Americans have no such programs in their universities and neither their military nor their society suffer from it.

On the other hand, what really needs to be strengthened is the optional advanced ROTC course. Training comparable to that provided in the Philippine Military Academy needs to be made available to its cadets. For those who complete the course and choose not to go into the active service, a serious reserve program needs to be developed. And a sustainable and adequate funding mechanism to carry this through needs to be developed.

One possibility is to impose a token fee of, say, P100 on every student enrolled during his first two years in college in lieu of compulsory ROTC. That would be a substantial saving to him over the current costs of taking the ROTC and yet provide a continuing funding source for advanced ROTC. Another possibility is a direct budgetary subsidy, although this would be difficult under the current regime of large budget deficits. Other new funding sources focusing on new technologies can be studied: a windfall profits tax on cellphone companies? Selling or bidding out frequencies or telecommunications licenses instead of giving them away?

In all this, we should be wary of either doing nothing but token change as some in the military establishment might prefer, or of tossing out the baby with the bath water as the ideologues of the Left would like. But we have little time left for talk. The current discredited ROTC program is now causing walkouts and strikes among cadets. On the one hand, this sets a bad example for military discipline but on the other demonstrates that the patience of the cadets has long been breached. And before the military talks about "mutiny" by long abused 18-year-old kids, it had better first make a draconian example of some senior officers in the ROTC program for plunder and murder.

Underpinning this whole debate must be our vision of what our armed services need to look like in the 21st century. Do we need an army of cannon fodder—large, plodding, poorly armed? Or should it be a small, well-trained and well-equipped force? What threats and risks do we foresee? How do we meet them? We then need to tailor the details in law to fit our own prescriptions. All the rest is politics, inertia and waste.

The devalued presidency

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL institutions of the Philippine State, the presidency is probably the most degraded and heavily damaged in the aftermath of the short-lived leadership of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The symptom of this degradation is the proliferation of people who have serious aspirations to be elected president of the republic regardless of whether they have the credentials to do justice to the highest post in the land.

Even before the new batch of officials elected in the May 14 polls could take their seats, many of them are already eyeing the presidency—not least among them are Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Mayor JV Ejercito of San Juan, and probably Sen. Noli de Castro. Their aspirations could swell the number of those aspiring for the presidency in 2004.

The inspiration and role model of Lacson, JV and De Castro is ousted President Estrada. They seem to subscribe to the minimalist view that it does not require too much brains, education and political experience to be president, and that the ability to mobilize the numbers during election is sufficient credential to be president. In other words, the competition for the presidency is reduced to the bottom line of it being a numbers game. In the numbers game, you don't need too much brains. All you need is to manipulate people and take advantage of their poverty and ignorance to mobilize votes.

According to JV, if his father could be president, why can't he? De Castro can boast he topped the senatorial elections. And Lacson can claim that he was elected to the Senate despite the alleged demonization campaign waged by those who consider him dangerous to be in a position of power and authority.

The election Estrada has so devalued the standards of the presidency that anyone with the least education, experience in public office and the most depraved ethical values is free to aspire for the presidency.

The philosophy of Estrada about the presidency, as demonstrated by abundant evidence introduced in his impeachment trial, is that the presidency is a license to loot the nation's wealth—a mandate derived from popularity.

There are, of course, better qualified people in terms of experience, educational preparation and civic ethics waiting in the wings for 2004 but the tragedy is that in the 2004 derby, they will be competing with contenders with inferior credentials, in the context of the devalued standards for presidential selection.

In these degraded standards, people like Raul Roco, Franklin Drilon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Aquilino Pimentel, or even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be competing with less qualified opponents who are, however, firm believers in the doctrine that he or she who has the least credentials to lead this country has the best chances to win, as proven by the Estrada election in 1998.

Under this doctrine, election is fought on the grounds of the lowest common denomination—i.e., the more ignorant and corrupt one is, the more likely he/she will be enthroned in the presidency. With these criteria, intelligent people like, for example, lawyer Katrina Legarda or Winnie Monsod, should never aspire for, or could hope to win, the presidency against such competitors like JV, Lacson and De Castro. They have no chance.

In this country, even janitors in the civil service are required to meet certain standards to qualify for government posts, but the presidency does not have any minimum requirement, so any person with the gumption to think he/she can be president is free to aspire for the job and, in fact, be elected, with Estrada's election as a validating model.

If it is an indication at all of the quality of input De Castro will have into legislation, one of his bills seeks to make press people "persons in authority" in the category of policemen, crews of vehicle towing trucks hijacking cars parked in "towing zones," or the barangay "kagawad." I suppose newsmen will also be armed with badges and the power to arrest, a function that has absolutely no relation with their job of collecting information of public interest.

There was a time not too long ago when our people regarded the presidency with awe, shrouding it with the mystique close to what Catholics accord the Pope. The presidency has a magisterial aura which enhances the authority and power which are already lodged in that office by the Constitution and its tradition as the most powerful office of the land.

All of our presidents before Estrada had credentials, experience and a modicum of ethical values that at least maintained the dignity of and the respect for the presidency. But the degradation of the presidency under Estrada, which was heavily damaged by the acts that translated into the impeachment trial, threw the office wide open for any person with pretensions to be president as though the presidency is a field for predatory forays.

After Edsa II and the third Edsa movement that led to the storming of Malacañang on May 1, the description by foreign observers that Philippine democracy has turned into a "mobocracy" deserves serious thought. The devaluation of the standards for access to the presidency opens the office to the invasion of mob-backed candidates. At the height of the Estrada presidency, actors and entertainment/show-biz people had come to believe that they had a populist-mandated franchise to the presidency. Thanks to the disgraceful exit of Estrada, the threat of this country being run by people based in the entertainment industry has now diminished.

But the dangerous notion that the competition for the presidency is based on the least common denominator remains. The single most important element upon which the claim for the presidency rests is the ability to collect a mass vote—regardless of how the vote was obtained. Unfortunately, numbers do not, and cannot, fill the vacuum in the head.

The worst country in the world

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE LATEST issue of Newsweek features a special report on "The World's Worst Countries." Let me cut to the chase.

The good news is that the Philippines doesn't figure among the "bottom ten," and neither is it mentioned among the countries that rate as the "worst" in which to be a woman, child, gay or white male. Or among the worst environments for a nethead, venture capitalist, journalist or student. Neither is the Philippines the worst country in the world to be a tree, a sun worshiper, a wild animal or a patient; or in which to be rich, poor, a tax collector or a taxpayer. Our country also doesn't figure among the worst countries to be a President (despite Erap's current travails, or because of them?), ethnic minority, civil servant, or refugee.

But before we all pour out into the streets, celebrating that we don't live in the Sudan, Afghanistan, Russia, Angola or North Korea (the all-time worst country in the world), one observation. In many of the countries mentioned in the dishonor-roll, the conditions described so nearly resemble our own that I have a niggling suspicion that the Philippines might have figured among the Top 10 contenders.

Consider this passage on Angola, rated the worst country in which to be poor: "It's not just the poverty that's so appalling…in a world of haves and have-nots, there may be no greater contrast between misery and excess…a more damning indictment of a nation's leadership than any measure of annual per capita income."

* * *

IT'S the write-up on Colombia, though, the worst country in the world "to be rich," that sets off the most uncanny echoes.

"Whoever said you can never be too rich never visited Colombia," the article says. "Last year more than 3,500 'wealthy' Colombians were kidnapped, including humble shopkeepers and members of the middle class. But the rich…were the juiciest prizes in a world-record-setting, $420 million-a-year kidnapping industry."

The differences between the kidnapping "trade" in Colombia and the Philippines include not just the scale and the percent of national income the kidnappers earn, but also the perpetrators. While in Colombia the abductions are widely believed to be the work of guerrillas and organized-crime groups, here there is a widespread suspicion that members of the police and armed forces—renegades, regulars or even officials—either share in the profits if not plan the abductions themselves.

But the impact of the kidnappings is about the same. "Those who can flee, do; last year more than 600,000 people left the country," notes the article. Those who choose to stay behind spend fortunes on security personnel and the latest in bulletproof vehicles and clothing. Familiar, too, is the seeming indifference of those most threatened to the underlying cause of the threat. Or as the magazine puts it: "…few members of the upper crust seem concerned about the misery that helps generate the rampant insecurity."

There's more than just a little irony, then, when groups of concerned citizens gather to discuss the country's problems and someone inevitably says: "We must do something before we turn into Colombia." Or outrace that country for the title.

* * *

STILL on kidnappings, something happened during the press conference last June 18 on the ongoing search for TOWNS awardees that, unknown to most of us, had placed us in the center of the headlines.

Seated at one table during the presscon were former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani, lawyer Lorna Kapunan, book publisher Karina Bolasco, broadcaster Boots Anson Roa, performing artist Celeste Legaspi, educator Nina Lim Yuson, TOWNS President Mel Alonzo, civic leader Elsa Payumo and Teresita Ang See, who won her TOWNS award for inter-cultural understanding, but who is best known these days as an anti-crime crusader and spokesperson for the Tsinoy community.

Just before lunch was served and throughout lunch, Tessy kept getting phone calls, which meant she had to stand up and leave the table to take each call. She apologized to the group: "Sorry, this is an emergency, there is a 'live kidnapping' going on." When the microphone was handed to her and she was about to speak, her phone rang again and she had to turn it off. Our moderator, Mila Alora, jokingly said: "Tessy, tell the kidnappers to stop for a while, you have to speak."

The women and media present found out that same afternoon that the "live kidnapping" was that of Mary Grace Cheng Rosagas, whose father owns Uratex, among other firms. Those beside Tessy can attest that whoever she was talking to was really frantic, the caller was almost shouting, probably in great panic. Tessy herself was frantic, talking to the caller alternately in Chinese and Tagalog.

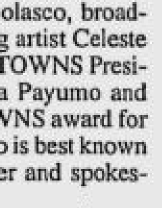
No wonder Tessy and the Cheng family would be deeply offended when, some days later, the President virtually accused the family of "conniving" in the kidnapping as part of a destabilization attempt.

* * *

TESSY would later observe that it's getting more and more agonizing whenever she receives calls like that. "I feel so helpless," she said, "since there is nobody professional whom the victims can trust enough to call on for help." Every successful kidnapping that goes unreported breeds two or more kidnappings. The growth is exponential because whenever ransom is paid, criminals realize that crime pays and pays lucratively. But, can we blame the victims? True, the "No Ransom" policy is the best foil against kidnappings. But, says Tessy, "we cannot impose it and make it stick since, admit it, we just do not have the capacity for safe rescue." Instead of adding insult to injury by blaming victims for getting kidnapped, blaming supposed "destabilizers" for reporting the upsurge in kidnappings, the country must first face the fact that we have a problem and solve it accordingly, says Tessy. "Hiding behind convenient excuses will never bring us near to any solutions. Instead of isolating and neutralizing anti-crime NGOs, we should work to get their cooperation and assistance."

Value of anthropologist's notes to historians

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE FIELD notes of an anthropologist would not immediately be on the reading list of a historian, but when I went over the papers of Daniel Folkmar, preserved in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., I realized that ethnological research in the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century has much to offer a historian today. I was drawn to Folkmar because of an album of photographs he published on so-called "Philippine types." These pictures were made, partly for the St. Louis Exposition, and entailed a lot of anthropometric work in the Bilibid Prison in 1903.

Looking at these pictures gave me goose bumps because the adult males presented—surely dead by now—were all prisoners of Bilibid. This is what one goes through when you become the victim of a crime, you scan albums of mug shots of criminals who look, sometimes belligerently, at the camera and later at the viewer. The Bilibid prisoners had no choice in the matter and Folkmar had almost ideal working conditions here not just for taking pictures, they measured the heads of the men, and even made plaster casts! Folkmar wrote: "The conditions of work were so favorable that the Prison might, with reason, be called a great anthropological laboratory."

Measurements were taken with special instruments, they looked at teeth, height, hair, perhaps even noted what crime these men committed for further study and analysis. From these head measurements some sort of conclusion could be drawn to Filipinos as a specific "type" and Folkmar explained that his sampling was representative of the Philippines:

"Since Bilibid Prison serves as a penitentiary for the entire archipelago, it offers an unexcelled collection of the leading peoples from Northern Luzon to Mindanao. It is needless to say that it was easier to handle the prisoners than would have been the case on the outside, since they thought themselves required to [submit to] the processes of plaster-casting and disrobing for photographs as in the case of the ordinary prison regulations. The work was confined to men. Whether they are fair representatives physically of their respective tribes, is a question involving criminological and social discussions which cannot be entered into here. The writer is of the impression that they are for the most part fair representatives..."

Over 3,000 prisoners were examined. There were a few women but mostly from the Tagalog regions so the study was confined to men. Measurements taken included height, arm span, shoulder and chest width, weight, length and breadth of head and nose, etc. Then the prisoners were classified into ethno-linguistic groups: Tagalogs, Neo Malays [Moro-Indios], Northerns and Southerns. Aside from mug shots, some drawings were actually drawn by hand and these appended to the notes. In some cases the whole process was preserved in pictures from the time the prisoners line up to be chosen, all wearing the striped uniforms, to the time they are measured and casts made of head or limbs.

Folkmar was not only interested in "physical types," he also collected specimens: animals, bugs, plants, rocks, and ethnographic objects for the St. Louis Exposition. He was interested in the Cordilleras and left some notes on American attempts to arrest head-hunting. He traveled quite extensively and even left us with an account of Tirad Pass:

"...The top of the mountain was not easily reached. On the contrary, my tired horse and perspiring self halted more than once to wait for the shadow of a cloud approaching lazily over the mountaintop. I had enough of walking in that hot sun and it was coming to the point where I had to pull my little pony up the trail instead of him helping me. He was getting weak in the knees, and I would tumble over whenever I halted him. This climate is enervating to the beasts as well as to the men that come from the temperate zone. Perhaps after the American stock has lived as many generations in the Philippines as have the ancestors of my pony, it will be quite as useless and degenerate...

"This pass is famous, too, as the field of a hotly contested battle between some of Aguinaldo's insurrectos and the first Americans who pushed their way into the interior after the flying chieftain. One of the ablest of insurrecto generals, [Gregorio] del Pilar, here lost his life in making his last desperate effort. It, no doubt, seemed an almost impregnable pass, with the insurrectos lining the summits of the range and out of sight behind rocks and trees, while the Americans toiled up the long barren slopes. Aguinaldo, in the meantime, was safely beyond the mountains. He tarried some time in Cervantes and finally found a safer refuge in the inaccessible mountains of Bontoc. We felt the lack of water on this mountainside. Our soldiers must have bitterly suffered from that cause. I fortunately, had provided myself with a canteen, but before the summit was reached, it was empty, and Igorrote carriers and my horse were in distress..."

While researching abroad, I was usually asked what a historian was doing rummaging in US museums for ethnographic or archaeological material. The artifacts often came with documents formerly overlooked by historians.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Ambiguities over labor export deregulation

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A DARK cloud of ambiguity envelops the government's implementation of the deregulation of overseas employment.

Republic Act 8042 (enacted in 1995) mandated government to deregulate the labor export industry, amid prevailing confusion on how it works. Section 29, titled "Comprehensive Deregulation Plan on Recruitment Activities," provides: "Pursuant to a progressive policy of deregulation whereby the migration of workers becomes strictly a matter between the worker and his foreign employer, the Department of Labor and Employment, within one year from the effectivity of this Act, is hereby mandated to formulate a five-year comprehensive deregulation plan on recruitment activities taking into account labor market trends, economic conditions of the country and emerging circumstances which may affect the welfare of migrant workers." Meanwhile, Section 30 directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to phase out its regulatory functions "within a period of five years from the effectivity of this Act," which was supposedly last year.

Within RA 8042, however, there is confusion whether employment should be deregulated or regulated. Section 23-b.2 reads: "Subject to deregulation and phase-out as provided under sections 29 and 30 herein, the (POEA) shall *regulate* private sector participation in the recruitment and overseas placement of workers by setting up a licensing and registration system."

It just shows that ever since the law was enacted, there has been much uncertainty on whether overseas employment will remain regulated or will be deregulated. The even bigger issue is what deregulation precisely means.

Government frequently uses streamlining as the meaning and mechanism of deregulation. True to its word, the POEA has been streamlining its regulatory functions and services since 1996. The POEA, instead of basing the meaning of deregulation on RA 8042, had defined deregulation following Sen. Blas Ople's comment during a committee hearing on RA 8042 six years ago: "Deregulation is simply to eliminate the red tape that so many of our workers complain of, and this means "debureaucratization'." Unfortunately, the law did not precisely define deregulation, as analysts think the concept is so limited and not properly explained.

The next problem is how government will implement a precise approach to deregulation. A May 30 draft deregulation plan bared the POEA's three-pronged approach to deregulate the industry. The POEA, in doing deregulation gradually and carefully, will streamline its services and functions, will revise the POEA Rules and Regulations and will provide so-called "safety nets" to protect migrant workers.

The streamlining of some POEA services and functions is the agency's foremost accomplishment in line with deregulation. With streamlining, "procedures are now simplified to make it easier for overseas Filipino workers to go into the system," explains POEA Deputy Administrator Valentin Guanio.

The revision of the POEA Rules and Regulations, which was last done in 1991, will be the key to enforce the POEA's deregulation plan. In her explanation during a May 10 tripartite consultation, POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz said the revised rules "features more stringent requirements for new entrants to the industry." But while obtaining licenses will be difficult, Baldoz said the proposed revised rules "will provide a legal environment that is more geared to have legitimate and responsible private sector participation." Among the proposed amendments to the rules are the opening accreditation for foreign employers, increasing of escrow funds (bonds) for OFWs, rationalizing employment standards and allowing recruitment agencies to advertise job opportunities.

Many OFWs and recruitment agencies will also experience shorter waiting time for processing papers. Application for new licenses will now be acted upon within 15 days instead of 30, as a renewal of the said license is now a two-day practice. OFW applications will now be processed within three days, says the POEA. Lastly, government will provide what it calls as "safety nets" to protect more migrant workers, primarily through preventive education before OFWs go abroad. But aside from workers' education, the POEA has transferred all employer-employee cases to the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC). The POEA had also institutionalized voluntary arbitration to settle disputes, had forged more bilateral labor agreements and arrangements, and had promoted Filipinos in labor-friendly destinations. The POEA is so conscious of workers' protection not only because it is the agency's mandate. "The public is so emotional when it comes to our OFWs," says Guanio.

From the way government has defined and designed a plan for labor export deregulation, it would appear that deregulation is not only about streamlining. It also implies doing away with the POEA's regulatory functions and services. If the functions are removed, government will not have the power anymore to go after illegal recruiters, to facilitate the proper hiring of workers, or to even control the prescribed placement fee that workers pay. If government's policy on overseas labor deregulation remains unclear, its aligned deregulation plan will all the more be ambiguous as well.

These ambiguities reveal that deregulation is a move toward freeing the market of regulations. Guanio himself said that there will be chaos if we implement deregulation full-blast, and it is government's duty to regulate the participation of the private sector in overseas employment. Sad to say, deregulation is likely to be favorable to employers and recruiters and not to OFWs.

Workers' protection will be the most affected aspect of Filipino overseas migration now with government pursuing a market-friendly deregulation policy. The Philippine Migrants' Rights Watch (PMRW), a nine-member network of civil society groups working for migrants' rights protection, said in a position paper that deregulation is "only sensible and effective in an environment where there is perfect information available to OFWs and prospective migrants, and where overseas migration is taken as an option."

Judging from how little protection the POEA's "safety nets" provide, fears of migrant workers being oppressed remain prevalent especially with deregulation. It is believed that deregulation, if enforced, will not redound to better protection for troubled migrant workers.

Under an atmosphere of confusion, there seems to be no stopping government from enforcing deregulation, although the POEA board is still currently deliberating the revised POEA rules. If government is keen on deregulating labor export, what do you think will the picture be?

At this point, we are searching for a desirable level of deregulation that would facilitate migration for those who want it, but at the same time, provide sufficient protection to those who opt for it. It should be clear that workers' protection must be the *raison d'etre* of the POEA's deregulation plan. Corruption and inefficiency within the POEA, which many think truly exist, must be significantly eradicated to make it an effective protector of OFWs' welfare. The unscrupulous recruiting agencies and foreign principals must be weeded out.

These are the scenes that we hope to see with the deregulation of labor export. But because there is confusion in how it is defined, much more as to how this will be enforced, the public should expect dangerous possibilities instead of those that are favorable to our migrant workers.

Granting that government has hardly any choice but to support the export of cheap Filipino labor, it must still do all it can to increase the protection it can give to OFWs. More importantly, government must carefully rethink and fine-tune its policy of deregulation—or the OFWs will not expect anything good.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Skepticism on the 'ikapu'

IT seems to me that the Catholic Church has become a profit-oriented institution masquerading as a religious sect. As a devoted Catholic for so many years, the question "why do I have to pay for my faith" puzzles me so much. Why do couples who want to "tie the knot" have to pay a certain amount to the Church? Why do mothers have to spend a lot just to make their babies Christians according to prescribed rites? Why are mass weddings and baptisms conducted in a shorter time than the special ones? If sacramental fees are imposed , what sets religion apart from business?

My skepticism has increased just recently. The local Catholic Church released a statement that it is now going to implement the so-called *"ikapu."* It requires Catholics to give 10 percent of their income to the Church. This system, according to a priest, will set the Catholics free from the sacramental obligations they have to pay for weddings, baptisms and other religious services. But isn't this a greater burden for the greater number of Catholics?

Even though the Catholic Church assures that the *ikapu* is on a voluntary basis for the meantime, it is in some respect an obligatory part for some devoted Catholics. It is a spiritual obligation. The Holy Bible, which is infallible and sacred, supports the validity of the *ikapu*, that is according to the leaders of the Church. And a devout Catholic would not want to live in guilt by not submitting to what the Church says. Besides, the teaching that whatever good deeds an individual does to the Church and to his fellowmen will be rewarded in heaven or on earth, has been inculcated in the minds of people.

And if indeed it is written in the Bible, I could not help but question, why just now? Why didn't the friars implement it as soon as they conquered the minds of the Filipinos? Why did it take more than four centuries for the Catholic Church to realize that it is in fact written? And why would God want 10 percent of the people's income?

To the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, just go for the *"barya-barya"* and donations from the people and bring down the fees for ministering certain rituals. Neither the Vatican nor the priests are starving like so many of the poor. So much for business and just focus on how to fulfill the hunger and thirst of the spirit.—**ELEONOR SUSON, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Drinking homegrown coffee is best

IT'S nice to know that there are people out there who take their coffee seriously and Rina Lim ("RP coffee industry needs a break," PDI, 7/3/01), sure knows her coffee and her priorities.

Ironic isn't it that Filipinos should suddenly rediscover their taste for brewed coffee so suddenly with the advent of all these coffee shops? I must admit, I too had my fling with US-based coffee franchises even though it was all I could do to swallow the months-old, vacuum-packed, slightly acidic imported coffee.

So like some prodigal son, I ended going back to drinking brewed coffee the way the Batangueños do it: piping hot from the kettle. Yes, kettle, not coffeemaker, for nothing beats freshly roasted, freshly ground Batangas (robusta) coffee beans added to boiling water that had brown sugar melted in it and drunk in the wee hours of the morning just as the world is rustling out of bed. Except of course, drinking brandy-laced Batangas coffee flavored with cinnamon and meaningful conversation at 4 on a cold, rainy afternoon. Now this is the difference between drinking coffee because it's convenient or "kewl," and drinking coffee for the way it fills your head with its aroma, settles comfortably on your stomach and leaves you with the memory of its sweet, tenderly bitter aftertaste.

I agree with Rina that it would be great to drink coffee with a little more patriotism but I think it would serve our purposes better to simply drink our homegrown coffee with passion.—**ROMEL M. LALATA, 265 interior 261-D, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

It was Imelda who blinked

TO CLARIFY what may have been inadvertently suggested by the INQUIRER's story ("For Imelda, party goes on after PCGG 'blinks,'" PDI, 7/3/01), the Presidential Commission on Good Government did not blink.

The commission asserted its authority over the sequestered property in Olot, Tolosa, Leyte, where Ms Marcos built a rest house, a 14-room guest house, a swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, a pelota court and various other improvements. Most of the improvements were built during the Marcos regime and were obviously funded with taxpayers' money.

As sequestering authority, the commission moved to retake control over the property from Ms Marcos. After she was given temporary possession over the buildings in 1994, the commission did not have access to the rest house and guesthouse, since she literally held the keys to its rooms.

Last week, the PCGG installed its own padlocks on these premises. Legally and physically, we retook these buildings. Ms Marcos now has to obtain the PCGG's consent for her use. Where before she could just enter the premises and use the property as she wished, she now has to recognize the PCGG's authority. This she did by seeking permission to use the property on the occasion of her birthday and the Tacloban City fiesta.

The PCGG wants it known that it will go after the Marcos dictatorship for its plunder. This means that sequestered property—whether claimed by Imelda Marcos or her children, or by any of the other cronies of the late dictator—must be subject to the PCGG's powers. Ms Marcos now knows this. She threatened to go to court to gain access. We would have fought her there. By deciding to instead seek the government's permission to sue what she claims as her '"ancestral home," she blinked.—**RUBEN C. CARRANZA JR., commissioner, Presidential Commission on Good Government, IRC Building, 82 Edsa, Mandaluyong City**

No injuries, looting reported in mall commotion

THIS concerns the article that appeared in your Metro section last June 5, 2001 about a reported stampede that occurred in our mall.

While there was admittedly some confusion and commotion brought about by the ringing of the fire alarm, the situation was quickly brought under control and the crowd calmed down. Our security personnel did their best to ease the situation.

We were also concerned about the reports of injuries and looting, as there was a sizeable crowd last Sunday, this being the back to school weekend. In fact, we immediately conducted thorough investigations on these and will be happy to let our customers know that we have no reports of such incidents.

We hope that this will clarify matters and such incidents will also be reported more responsibly.—**BIEN C. MATEO, mall manager, The SM City, North Edsa, Quezon City**

The Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies

MAPÚA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF EARTH & MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AEROSPACE SURVEY & EARTH SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
The Netherlands

JOINT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

This July of 2001, the Mapua Institute of Technology (Mapua Tech) and the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Science (ITC), The Netherlands in a *Joint Educational Program (JEP)* will present an opportunity for graduate students, other members of the academe and practicing professionals to be updated on the latest technologies through an international educational effort. An immediate aim of the program is to further strengthen Mapua Tech's academe-leading programs in various fields.

The offered subjects are required courses for graduate students enrolled in the MS Engineering Geology / Geotechnical Engineering Program. The offer is however open to all other interested parties. The venue for these subjects will be at the Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, 5th Floor, RCBC Plaza, Cor. Ayala Avenue and Buendia, Makati City, Philippines.

For particulars, please contact The School of Graduate Studies at 527-3681 or the The School of Earth & Material Science & Engineering at 301-0096 or visit our website at: **http://www.mapua-tech.edu.ph**.

SUBJECT	PROFESSOR	SCHEDULE
Advanced Soil Mechanics Groundwater, Shear Strength, Stress-Strain of Soils, UCS, Triaxial Tests, Slope Stability, Site Investigation, Liquefaction, Quick Clays, etc.	**Marco Huisman** Professor of Engineering Geology ITC-TU Delft, Netherlands	**Module 1** July 9-13, 2001
Foundation Engineering Earth Retaining Structures, Base Plate Foundation, Piled Foundation, Underground Construction Methods, Consolidation Theory		**Module 2** July 16-20, 2001
Artificial inteligence Intelligence Search Procedures, Fuzzy Logic, Genetic Algorithm, Knowledge-Based System, Neuro Computing, Intelligent Decision Support Systems, Inductive Learning, Case-Based Reasoning, etc.	**Senol Ozmutlu** Ph.D. Candidate ITC-TU Delft, Netherlands	**Module 1 (Lecture)** July 23-27, 2001
		Module 2 (Applications) July 30 to August 03, 2001

Milk and honey

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER John Updike's witty comment that among the many advantages of books was that they helped prevent separations and divorces. This was so, he said, because libraries were not so easy to divide. People who were about to break up could not tell so readily which books went to whom.

That is one of the advantages as well of going to America for Filipinos. It has helped discourage separations and divorces. Many a shaky Filipino marriage or relationship at home has been saved by the couple leaving for America. The reasons for this are legion. Lack of opportunity to stray is one of them. Taking on a couple of jobs, which is normal among Filipinos in the United States, does not exactly leave much time—and energy—for philandering.

Having to face a strange new world is another reason. It helps to keep a united front, physically as well as psychologically. Being thrown in one another's company much of the time has helped rekindle dying embers. Familiarity has not bred contempt, it has bred printemps.

This at least was what I used to hear among Filipinos in America a decade or so ago. A family that ships together, keeps together. I do not know that that is a valid reason for applying for a working visa at the US Embassy, but it could be worth a try.

I heard a different story though the other day from Tito (that is not his real name), a Filipino who has lived in the United States since 1970. A *tisoy* who has kept a great deal of his looks despite pushing 60, he has found America a land of opportunity in quite different ways from his compatriots. "The great thing here," he says, "is that you don't need to keep a relationship that's gone sour. You marry because neither of you can stand to be apart. You divorce because neither of you can stand to be together. You don't need to lie to yourself, you don't need to be a hypocrite. You have a passionate and meaningful relationship each time."

He is now on his fourth passionate and meaningful relationship with a 29-year-old Filipino woman. That is to say, he is now into his fourth marriage. His passionate and meaningful relationships do not include minor flings, which have been interracial, in contrast to his marriages, which have all been to women of Filipino descent, a preference he cannot explain. Maybe that is the nationalistic part of him, he volunteers skeptically. He has six children from his previous marriages.

He is happy in America and wouldn't dream of going home, notwithstanding a minor brush with the law recently (he was caught driving under the influence which landed him a night in jail and jacked up his insurance from $300 to $3,000). "Although sometimes," he says, rising up from his chair and wiggling his tight-fitting shoes before taking to the floor to dance the cha-cha with his newly pregnant wife, I wake up yearning for the less complicated life at home. That's each time I have to pay alimony."

* * *

The one sight I've always found dismaying in America is food going to waste. This is a land of milk and honey in a completely literal sense. Food tumbles out of refrigerators and kitchen shelves in awe-inspiring abundance: meat, poultry, vegetables, fruits, dairy, juices. Each time you see it, you are tempted to burst into "Food, glorious food," the opening song of "Oliver."

The sheer plenitude of it results in a great deal of it going down the garbage can rather than inside stomachs. It's not just in restaurants where the orders are usually more than the capacity of an average human being to devour: potatoes, vegetables and huge pieces of chicken or fish overrunning plates. It's also in homes where the quantity of food during meals somehow always exceeds the appetite—and I do not mean small appetites, as witness the expansion per cubic foot of bodies here. The excess food does not always go to the refrigerator, as leftovers have a way of swiftly overrunning refrigerators too. It goes down the drain.

It assails me a little more fiercely these days, the memory of the ragged rabble of Metro Manila still fresh in my mind. My kids have always found it amusing that each time I eat, I leave a plate as clean as a whistle. Well, I still remember my father saying that if you scorned the smallest grain of rice on it, you would be visited by a curse: your hands would stiffen and your body would shrivel. To this day, I worry about that curse, even with gout threatening to produce roughly the same effects.

* * *

At a party, people got to talking about what was going to happen to Erap, and pretty soon they were recalling, not without some wistfulness, their favorite "Eraptions." Courtesy of the e-mail and the Internet, many Filipinos in California had kept abreast of developments in their home country—and were often ahead in the jokes department. Someone speculated that Filipinos were probably unique in having made a national passion out of humor, especially gallows humor.

I agreed completely, though I said other countries, including the seemingly reserved or even morose Asian ones, had their own truly funny political jokes. I told them about the one I heard in Indonesia. Shortly before Suharto was overthrown, the story went, he proclaimed a period of liberalization. Most newspaper editors did not believe him (and rightly so) and continued to be very cautious in their criticism. Not so the intrepid editor of a small newspaper. The very next day, he proceeded to publish a headline that screamed, "Suharto is a fool!"

They arrested him shortly afterward, and the judge sentenced him to 25 years and three months in jail. The offending editor begged to know what he was doing all that time for. The judge answered, "Three months for subversion, and 25 years for revealing state secrets."

Well, somebody added, he too heard one funny joke about media and the American Congress recently. An editor of a newspaper who was particularly disgusted with Congress ran a headline one day that said, "Half of the American congressmen are fools." Everyone took him to task, including the media community, which found his headline unfair. They asked him to recant and issue an apology. He did. Next day, he wrote to say he was apologizing, and was making his retraction a headline too. It read: "Half of the American congressmen are not fools."

* * *

"I believe," said Woody Allen once (or words to this effect, I am quoting from memory), "that there is intelligent life in the universe, with the exception of certain parts of New Jersey." I think when he wrote that New Jersey hadn't yet been invaded by Filipinos.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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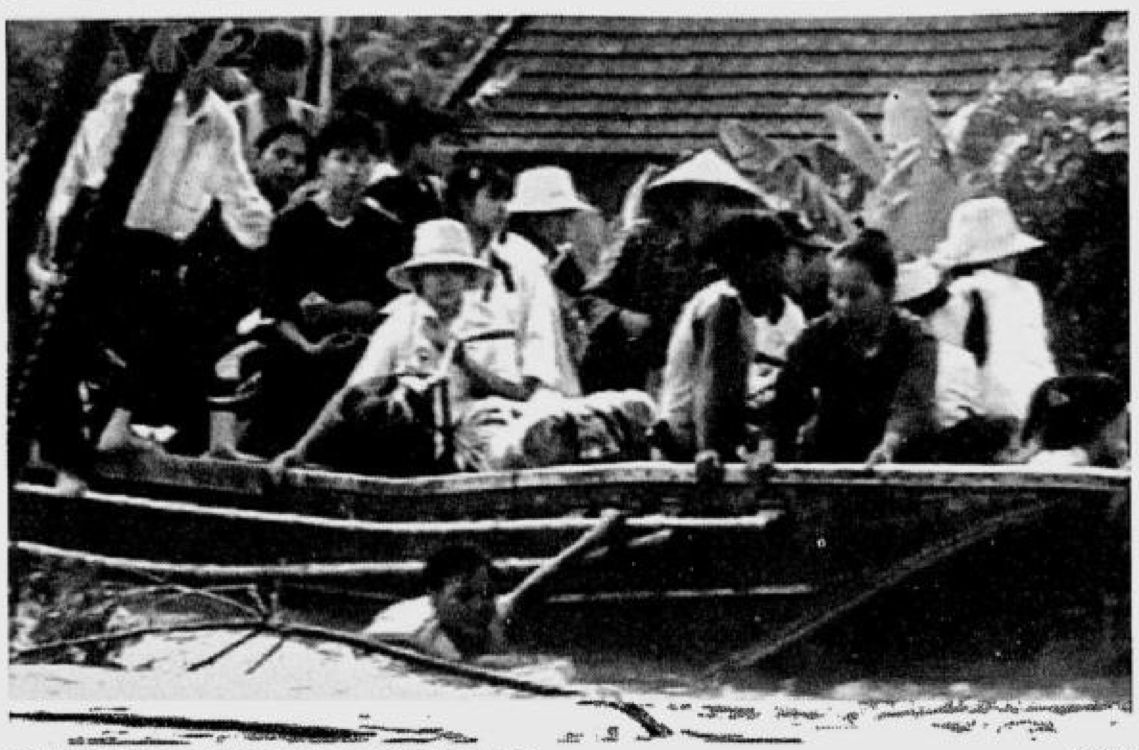
The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor



REUTERS

VIETNAM IN THE SAME BOAT AS RP

Vietnamese folks are evacuated from Thai Nguyen, about 80 km north of the capital Hanoi during flooding July 4. At least 11 people were killed and three reported missing after the floods, triggered by heavy rains from a storm swept through mountainous provinces in northern Vietnam.

Bush, Koizumi turn personal attention to Okinawa rape

CHATAN, Japan—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi joined a chorus of his ministers who are urging Washington to hand over a US airman suspected in the alleged rape of a young woman, saying he wanted the right decision soon.

President George W. Bush will take part in a decision on whether to hand the suspect over to Japanese police, US Secretary of State Colin Powell told Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka in a telephone call, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Police on southern Okinawa island called the suspect in for a seventh day of questioning amid rising domestic ire at what is being seen as a delay by US forces in handing over the man into Japanese police custody after the issue of an arrest warrant on Monday.

"I hope that the United States will make an appropriate and proper decision soon," Koizumi said on his return from an overseas trip to the United States, Britain and France.

"I would like to watch the situation a little longer," he said, commenting on an incident that threatens to fray ties between the two allies if mishandled.

The alleged rape follows a string of offences by US forces on Okinawa, reluctant host to the bulk of the US military presence in Japan, and has fanned smoldering resentment among Okinawan residents.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani telephoned US Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz earlier and urged the swift handover of the suspect, warning of potential damage to the strategic alliance at the forefront of Washington's Asian policy.

"It must not happen that we allow the frustration of people in the prefecture to escalate to the degree that they step up calls for a review of the . . . presence of bases, and thereby strain the trust between Japan and the US," Kyodo news agency quoted Nakatani as saying.

The suspected rape has already triggered renewed demands, and even some small demonstrations, for a reduction in the huge bases that cover 20 percent of Okinawa's land.

A US government source said Washington appeared to be moving toward a consensus to hand over US Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24.

Top government spokesperson Yasuo Fukuda told a news conference that he expected a conclusion soon. "I think the United States is taking the situation very seriously," he said.

Okinawa police again questioned Woodland, who is from the 353rd Special Operations Group stationed at the huge Kadena Air Base. Dressed in civilian clothes, he was brought to the station in a Japanese police car.

The woman, in her 20s, told investigators she had been raped by a black foreigner in the early hours of Friday in the parking lot of the American Village shopping district in Chatan, some 1,600 km south of Tokyo.

Woodland has denied the alleged rape. He has been quoted as saying the incident involved consensual sex.

The Okinawa prefectural assembly unanimously adopted a resolution and petition asking the United States to hand over Woodland at once, and would hand it over to Koizumi and Lieut. Gen. Paul Hester, the top US military commander in Japan next week.

If US officials comply with Japanese police demands to arrest Woodland, it would be only the second time US forces in Japan have handed over a serviceman to Japanese investigators before formal charges have been filed.

Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine, aware of escalating local ire, has called for a reduction in US troop levels and asked for a revision of a US-Japan pact that prevents US servicemen being handed over to local police except in cases of serious crimes—a call he repeated this week.

Under current agreements, the United States need not hand over suspects until they are charged by Japanese prosecutors.

But ever since three servicemen raped a 12-year-old in 1995, Washington has agreed to consider requests in serious cases.

In July 1996, 20-year-old Terrence Swanson became the first serviceman to be handed over to Japanese authorities before indictment in a case of attempted murder of a local woman. *Reuters*

Accounts vary on cult deaths

BEIJING—Chinese authorities Wednesday said followers of the outlawed Falun Gong sect hanged themselves in a mass suicide at a northeast China labor camp, but gave conflicting accounts of the number of dead and times of death.

A government judicial official in Heilongjiang province, Lan Jingli, said 14 followers died by hanging themselves from bunk beds with sheets at the province's Wanjia labor camp before dawn on June 20.

Another 11 followers who also tried to take part in the mass suicide were rescued by camp guards, Lan said.

However, a spokesperson for the central government's State Council Information Office, responding to reporters' phoned questions, said Lan was wrong and that only three died in the incident. Another eight who attempted suicide were revived, he said. All 11 were women, had hanged themselves with sheets torn into strips, and were hospitalized after being discovered around 2 a.m. on June 21, said the spokesperson.

The other eight are now "out of danger," said the spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity. He declined to speculate on the conflicting information except to say that Lan may have not heard the full story.

"This is the official answer," the spokesperson said.

Falun Gong denied the group committed suicide, saying at least 15 followers were beaten to death at Wanjia on or around June 20.

About 30 Falun Gong members staged a sit-in protest outside China's representative office in Hong Kong, the Chinese-governed territory where the group remains legal. They called on the United Nations to investigate the deaths. *AP*

Recriminations dim Mideast peace hopes

JERUSALEM—Israel and the Palestinians on Thursday accused each other of waging war, instead of observing a truce, dimming hopes that a US-backed plan for restoring calm and restarting peace talks will get off the ground.

Despite the harsh words, Thursday was relatively calm. In one violent incident, two Palestinian boys, ages 12 and 14, were wounded when a bomb exploded in the Gaza Strip, near the border with Egypt. It was not immediately clear who set off the explosive.

The latest round of recriminations came as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met German leaders at the start of his first European trip since taking office in March. Sharon will be seeking to persuade the European Union to adopt a tougher stance against the Palestinians.

At home, members of Sharon's government were at odds over how to handle the confrontation with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

In a security Cabinet meeting Wednesday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the most dovish member of the center-right coalition, came under fire from hardline ministers for advocating restraint.

In radio interviews Thursday, Peres ridiculed his hawkish colleagues for suggesting the conflict could be solved with force alone.

"They (the ministers) have proposals, and afterward air them on the radio, on how the uprising can be ended at the drop of a hat," Peres told Israel Army radio. "I have the unpleasant duty in this life to act as a brake."

Meanwhile, Peres' colleague in the moderate Labor Party, Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, said Israel would continue its policy of targeted killings of suspected Palestinian militants. In nine months of fighting, 24 Palestinians have been killed in 19 such attacks by Israeli forces, according to a Palestinian human rights group.

"These actions are done for our safety," Ben-Eliezer said of the killings.

He said Arafat has systematically violated the truce that went into effect June 13. "While we respect the ceasefire and all the agreements, Arafat doesn't. We have a problem dealing with someone who is waging war against us," he said.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said the targeted killings meant Israel was walking away from the truce and branded Sharon a "professional killer."

A leader of Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, Marwan Barghouti, said Israel's policy was a "declaration of war against the Palestinian people" and that the Palestinian uprising would continue.

Also Thursday, a Palestinian man was brought before a Palestinian military tribunal in the West Bank town of Nablus on charges he collaborated with Israel. The defendant, Thaer Jaber, was charged with having helped Israel kill two Palestinians, including a well-known gunman, in a May 12 helicopter attack in the northern West Bank town of Jenin. *AP*

UN tribunal presses arrest of fugitives

THE HAGUE—The UN war crimes tribunal, branding the Bosnian Serb republic the "last safe haven" for war crimes suspects, is pressing the prime minister of the Serb enclave to take the first steps toward arresting fugitives and surrendering them to The Hague for trial.

Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Mladen Ivanic was scheduled to meet the chief war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte on Thursday, two days after the court scored its greatest victory so far when it arraigned former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Milosevic's handover left two of the most wanted suspects, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his senior military officer Ratko Mladic, still at large and believed to be in Republika Srpska, the Serb half of Bosnia with its main city Banja Luka.

So far, the republic has made no arrests, but Ivanic says his government has cooperated with the tribunal by making witnesses and documents available.

"Republika Srpska became the last safe haven for war crimes. We have more than 20 fugitives living there," said Del Ponte's spokeswperson Florence Hartmann.

"The authorities in Banja Luka know where some of them are. They are in contact with Karadzic and Mladic," Hartmann said.

Arriving in the Netherlands Wednesday, Ivanic denied he knew where the two fugitives were hiding or that he had any contact with them. But Hartmann said Mladic was known to have traveled through the republic with an Army escort.

"It is very important for the stability in the region that they are handed over to The Hague," she said.

Ivanic, who is considered pro-Western, took office last January, nominated by the man who defeated him in elections for the presidency in November, Mirko Sarovic—a member of the party founded by Karadzic.

On Wednesday, Ivanic urged Karadzic and other indicted suspects to give themselves up to the tribunal, and said he expected some Serb fugitives who had lived in Serbia would now flee to Bosnia after Milosevic's transfer to The Hague last week.

On Tuesday, Ivanic's government drew up a draft law on cooperation with the tribunal, which he said he expected to be approved by parliament within three weeks. The bill is similar to the legislation that cleared the way for Milosevic's surrender. *AP*

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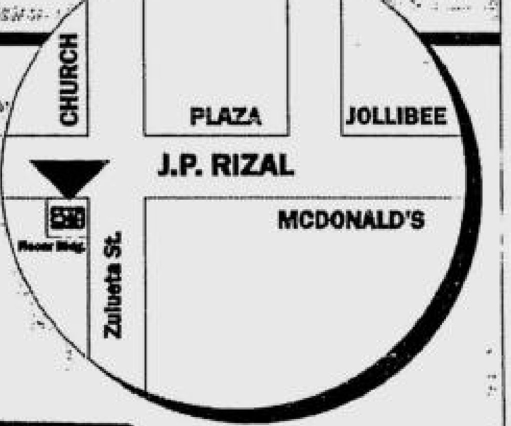

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Experts baffled by Russia's worst air disaster in decades

YEKATERINBURG, Russia—Sirens wailed and flags were lowered to half mast yesterday as Russia observed a day of mourning for 145 people killed in the country's worst air disaster in decades.

Experts who sifted through charred wreckage in a clearing in Siberian woods said they had no explanation why the Tupolev Tu-154 jet plunged to the ground from 850 meters as it made its third approach to Irkutsk on Tuesday night, killing all 136 passengers and nine crew.

Relatives of victims were flown from opposite ends of the country to the center of Siberia to attempt to identify bodies laid out in an Irkutsk city morgue. Television showed them sobbing as they were led to hotels.

Factory bells and sirens rang out, calling for a moment of silence in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, where the doomed plane took off on Tuesday evening bound for Vladivostok on the Pacific coast.

Hearing the tolling of the bells, an elderly woman stopped in the street and crossed herself.

"What sorrow to befall the families," she whispered.

At the charred crash site, Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, head of a commission set up to determine the cause of the crash, told journalists the damaged "black box" flight recorders had so far yielded few clues.

"The catastrophe was terrible, and more terrible still because nothing gave warning of the tragedy, not the weather, not the condition of the plane up until that moment," he said.

Klebanov said his commission hoped to have more information by Monday after further analysis of the flight recorder data.

"Today the main task is to work with the families," he said.

President Vladimir Putin ordered flags lowered across the nation for yesterday's day of mourning and asked for entertainment programs to be struck from television schedules. Newscasters wore black.

Whatever the cause of the crash, it drew attention to the safety of Russia's ageing, mostly Soviet-era civil air fleet. Putin ordered the government to look into safety standards, and asked aviation officials to report on the fleet's condition.

"Tuesday's crash—as any crash here would be—was a blow to all Russian carriers who have worked so hard over the last few years to meet Western aviation standards," an official for one leading Russian air company said.

The doomed flight was operated by VladivostokAvia, one of hundreds of "babyflots"—tiny domestic carriers that split off of Aeroflot, once the world's largest airline, when the Soviet Union collapsed.

Aeroflot, still Russia's flagship carrier on international routes, has often called for tougher safety and financial regulations to force weaker airlines to stop flying.

The United Nations aviation arm has blasted Russia for inadequate aircraft maintenance standards, poor staff training and inadequate investigation procedures. But Russian civil air officials say most of the problems in recent years were on military flights, outside their control.

VladivostokAvia said it had bought the doomed Soviet-built airplane only two months ago from a Chinese company and had overhauled it.

First introduced in 1972, the three-engine Tu-154 is the main medium-range workhorse of Russia's civil aviation fleet. Tu-154s have crashed three other times on Russian soil since 1994, killing more than 350 people. *Reuters*

RUSSIAN Emergency Ministry servicemen stand July 5 at the VladivostokAvia site where a Tu-154 plane crashed and exploded Tuesday, killing all passengers and crew. REUTERS

US spy plane parts on way to Georgia

HONOLULU—A cargo plane carrying the fuselage and other salvageable parts of an American spy plane that made an emergency landing in China three months ago has left an air force base near Pearl Harbor on the last leg of its journey to the US mainland.

The cavernous, Russian-made cargo plane left Hickam Air Force Base Wednesday for Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Georgia, which is near a repair facility of Lockheed Martin Corp., the manufacturer of the EP-3E.

The disassembled US Navy surveillance plane arrived here Tuesday aboard the cargo plane that stopped in the Philippines for refueling after leaving China's Hainan Island.

The fate of the spy plane remains undecided.

"They do fully intend to either reuse these pieces in other air frames or rebuild this aircraft," Navy Cmdr. John Fleming of the US Pacific Command said of Lockheed Martin.

The $80-million Navy plane, loaded with sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment, made an emergency landing April 1 on Hainan after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet sent to intercept it over the South China Sea.

The collision and China's 11-day detention of the US crew, caused the worst tensions between Beijing and Washington since the bombing of China's embassy in Yugoslavia by US planes during the Nato airstrikes in 1999.

China rejected a US proposal to repair the plane and fly it home.

The two sides eventually compromised, agreeing the EP-3E would be transported out, but disassembled in such a way that it could be put back together again. *AP*

London police turn blind eye to pot smokers

LONDON—Chris Baldwin, a paraplegic who says he uses marijuana to control muscle spasms, lit up a joint in front of a police station in south London to see what would happen.

It took the 51-year-old Baldwin 20 minutes, two marijuana cigarettes and "several shouted requests to passing patrols" before officers confiscated his marijuana, according to media reports.

Baldwin was testing a pilot program launched this week in London's crime-ridden borough of Lambeth in which anyone caught with a small amount of marijuana is let off with a verbal warning, as part of an effort to free officers to tackle crack cocaine, heroin and other crimes.

Authorities in Lambeth say the program, which began Monday and will last for six months, is not about leniency, but about freeing officers from paperwork so they can address the area's more pressing needs.

"Local people have said that the things that most concern them are crack cocaine, heroin and street robbery, so I want to focus scarce police resources on those priorities," said Brian Paddick, commander of Lambeth police.

According to Paddick, it takes two officers several hours to process a marijuana smoker, who usually ends up paying a fine of less than $70. Officers will now spend a few minutes to confiscate the drug and give a verbal warning.

Others besides Baldwin, including a reporter from The Guardian newspaper, were pointedly ignored by officers as they smoked marijuana publicly.

Lambeth is a hard-bitten borough plagued by violent crime, prostitution and hard drugs. Shootings are commonplace, particularly among the so-called Yardie gangs—Jamaican gangsters.

Drug dealers are a common sight on street corners, particularly in Brixton—an increasingly fashionable town in the borough despite its high crime rate and the stigma of the race riots that tore it apart in the early 1980s.

John Whelan, head of Lambeth Council's Conservative group, acknowledges its hard crime problem, but believes the program will compound problems.

"One respects and acknowledges that policing should be flexible. But why run up a white flag and say, 'That's our policy, come and do it here?" he said.

Britain's Misuse of Drugs Act of 1971 makes it illegal to grow, produce, possess or supply marijuana to another person. Possession carries a maximum five years imprisonment. *AP*

Court blocks release of Kohl's Stasi file

BERLIN—Helmut Kohl won a court ruling Wednesday blocking the release of the East German spy agency's files on him, which lawmakers hoped might help their investigation into a slush fund scandal tainting the former chancellor.

The Berlin administrative court ruled against opening the eavesdropping records after a one-day hearing to assess Kohl's insistence that he should be accorded protection foreseen for victims of the communist-era spy service, the Stasi.

The official heading the Stasi archive, Marianne Birthler, argued the records should be opened up for Kohl as they have been for other prominent Germans, with the exception of information about their private life.

But Kohl succeeded in his latest attempt to defend his legacy as the leader who reunited Germany in 1990. In March, he avoided criminal charges by agreeing with prosecutors to pay a 130,000 fine related to his acceptance of illegal campaign donations.

The Stasi, former communist East Germany's hated secret police, not only spied on its own citizens but also systematically recorded the conversations of Kohl and other West German politicians until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

A law passed by Kohl's government gave journalists and academics access to the files. But a lawyer for Kohl argued in the Berlin administrative court Wednesday that the former chancellor could claim protection under provisions shielding the victims of Stasi surveillance.

Lawyer Stephan Holthoff-Pfoertner also rejected charges by the agency in charge of the archive that Kohl was applying a double standard.

Revelations have damaged several prominent East Germans, and national leaders including President Johannes Rau warn that extra protection for figures from the west could set back the slow knitting together of the long-divided country.

Birthler also argued that giving in to Kohl would set back efforts to come clean on East German history.

Former East German spymaster Markus Wolf claimed last year that the Stasi knew about secret campaign funds for Kohl's Christian Democrats, fueling speculation the records could help parliament's nearly two-and-a-half-year-old investigation into several business deals during Kohl's 16 years in power.

Kohl, who stayed away from Wednesday's proceedings, sued last November to keep his files under wraps, arguing that the wiretaps were illegally obtained and that he deserves protection from further damage to his "human dignity."

He has also said the about 2,000 pages of notes on him are bound to be full of phony and doctored information. *AP*

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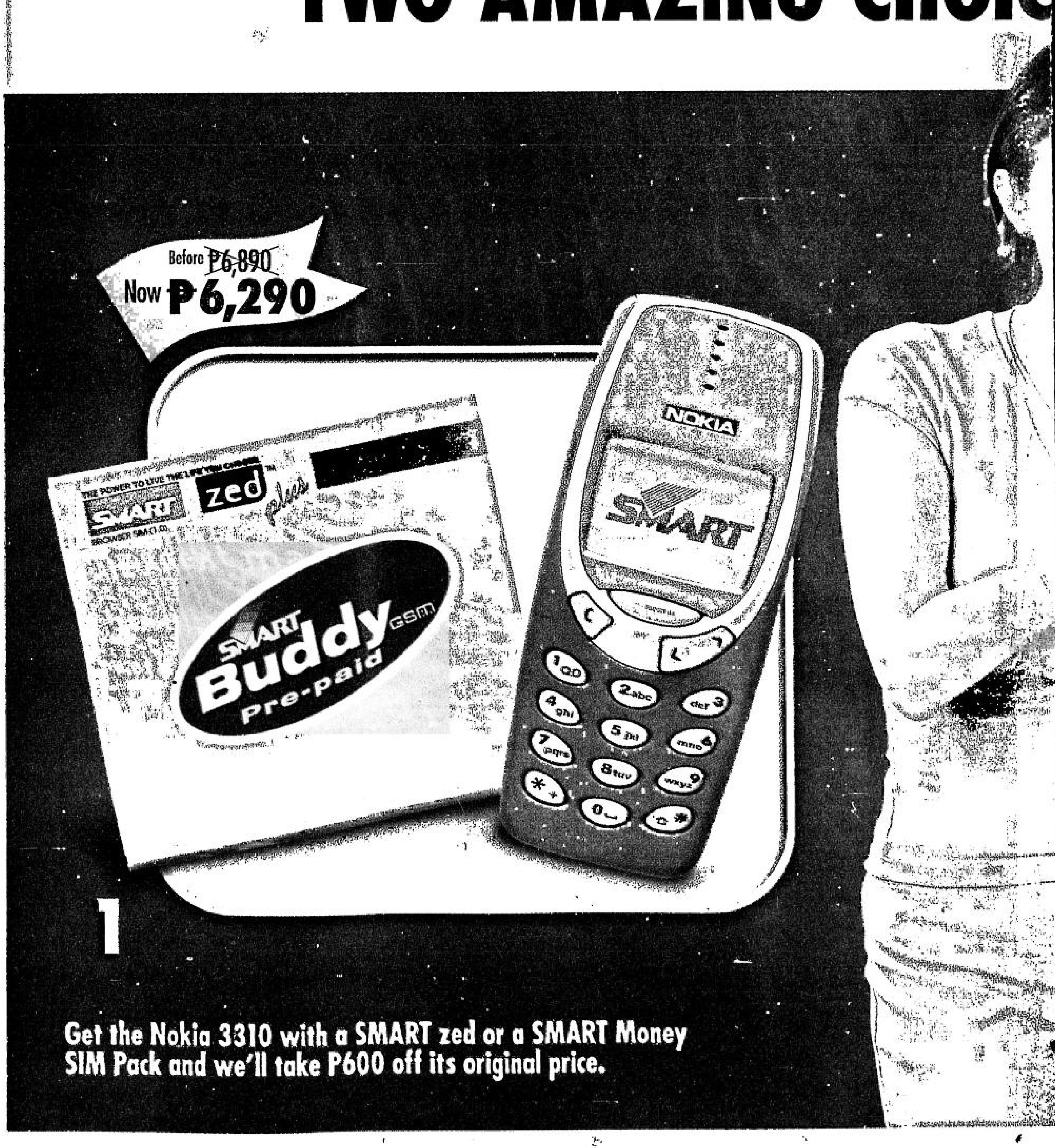

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Ex-president Menem indicted in weapons deal, ordered jailed

BUENOS AIRES—A federal judge formally charged Argentine former president Carlos Menem Wednesday with leading an "illicit association" that illegally sold arms in the 1990s to Ecuador and Croatia, and ordered him jailed.

The former leader has vowed to appeal the detention in federal court and file an objection with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, his brother, Senator Eduardo Menem said in radio interviews.

Menem, the first constitutionally elected leader of Argentina to be arrested in a corruption probe, offered a written statement Tuesday to Jorge Urso, the federal judge investigating the arms sales from 1991-1995 when Ecuador and Croatia were under international arms embargoes.

Urso now has ordered Menem, who led Argentina from 1989 to 1999, to be put behind bars while he is being investigated, the court spokesperson said.

Menem's lawyer Oscar Roger told reporters the former president "must be quite uncomfortable" with the measure the judge is seeking to impose.

"Knowing Menem I don't think this will depress him," but would cause him some awkwardness, the lawyer said, adding that visitors to Menem at the luxury home of a businessman friend north of Buenos Aires had been restricted to two at a time.

The diminutive, charismatic Menem has been under house arrest since June 7, watched over by his new wife, television presenter and former Miss Universe Cecilia Bolocco of Chile.

MENEM

Urso on June 11 instructed officials at the property registry to inform him of assets owned by Menem, his three brothers and his daughter Zulemita Menem.

Menem was arrested on grounds of "falsifying public documents" and for "heading an illicit association."

If he is found guilty he could be sentenced to between five and 10 years in jail.

Under Argentine law, a person over 70 can serve a prison sentence under house arrest, if a relative assumes the responsibility of being the arrest guarantor.

Menem can also appeal the judge's ruling directly to the Supreme Court, if his lawyers decide to challenge it on constitutional grounds.

However, his lawyers gave no indication Wednesday if they intended to use this opportunity. Menem, 71, has made no secret of his potential interest in seeking a return to office.

Menem has said he authorized weapons sales to Panama and Venezuela, but had no idea the shipments would end up in Croatia and Ecuador respectively.

The gunrunning scandal also hit Menem's former defense minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and former Army chief Martin Balza, both of whom were in custody Wednesday.

Urso also ordered an investigation of former foreign minister Guido di Tella and former Army deputy chief Gen. Raul Gomez Sabaini as "presumed members of that association" led by Menem, but the judge did not jail the two.

"Menem—who directly or indirectly had assigned each of those charged in the case to their duties — naturally led, directed and monitored the operations" Urso said in his statement.

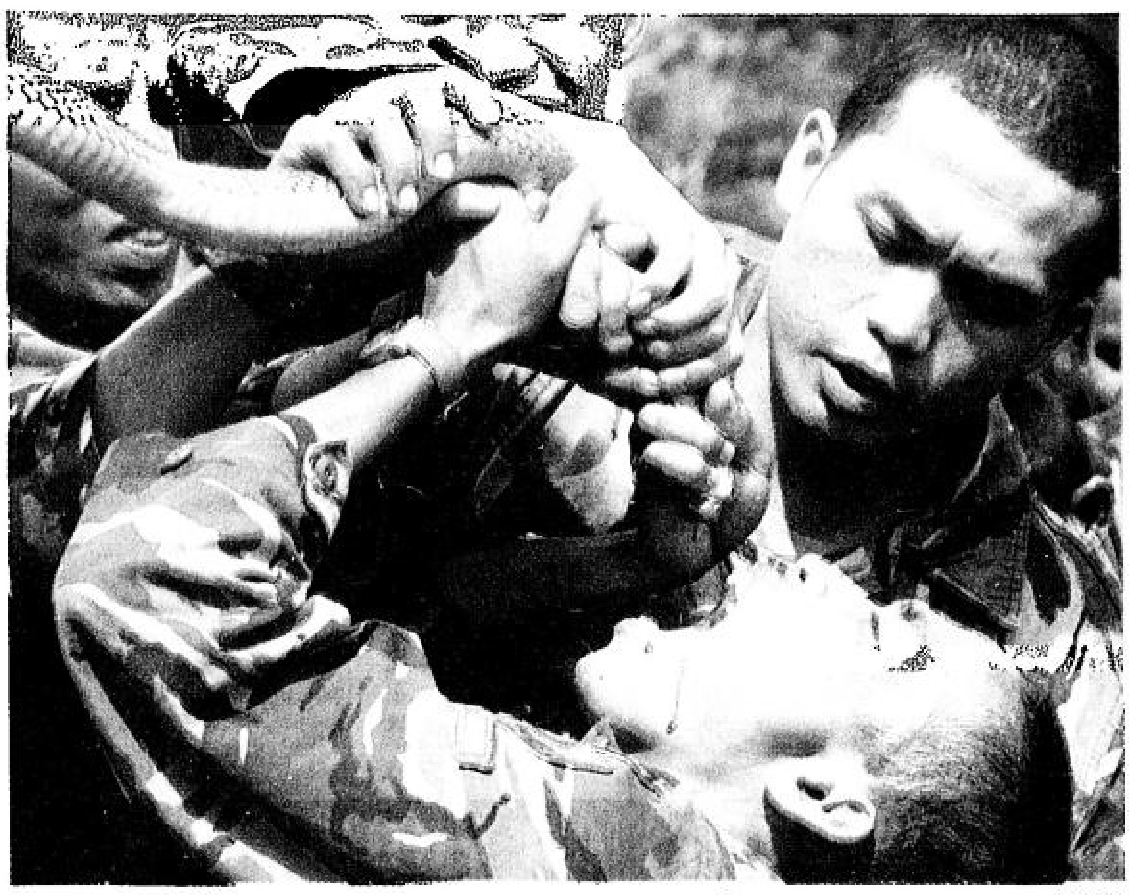
The former president "exercised his leadership (of the arms sales) in the shadows, but when circumstances required, made his presence increasingly known." Urso stressed Menem had "detailed knowledge" of the transaction and played the role of a "protector."

Businessman Emir Yoma, a former Menem brother-in-law and close aide, also has been detained since April 4 as a presumed organizer of the arms sales.

The 1991-95 war in Croatia following its declaration of independence left 13,000 dead.

At the time of the arms sales, Argentina was a guarantor of the peace process between Ecuador and Peru, which earlier clashed over a border dispute.

AFP



REUTERS

'VAMPIRE' SOLDIERS

Indonesian soldiers from the elite Army Strategic Command drink blood from a snake during jungle survival training on Sanggabuana mountain near Karawang in West Java July 4. The soldiers drink the blood to increase their immunity from snake bites and are also subjected to repeated bites as part of their training.

Taiwan ex-generals charged for 'corrupt' arms purchases

TAIPEI—Prosecutors indicted six former Navy officers Thursday for inflating the prices of six French-built frigates in a 1991 weapons deal.

The six—including three retired generals—were charged in Taipei District Court with "being involved in a corrupt deal," the prosecutors said in a report.

The six falsified a report urging the Navy to scrap a plan to buy frigates from South Korea and switch the order to France, the prosecutors said. The Lafayette frigates did not meet Taiwan's requirements, they said.

Taiwan paid $650 million more than it should have in the deal that totaled $2.7 billion, the court said.

The former generals who were indicted were Lei Hsueh-ming, who was in charge of vessels management, Yao Nung-chung, formerly responsible for weapons procurement, and Wang Chin-sheng, once in charge of weapons development.

The others indicted were one officer and two junior officers.

Lei's daughter, Lei Chen, said her father will appeal. She argued that prosecutors did not have enough evidence to charge her father for corruption.

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Anti-Gorbachev plotters defend power grab try

MOSCOW—Organizers of the failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, sitting together in an eerie reprise of their last joint appearance a decade ago, on Wednesday defended their actions and said Russian President Vladimir Putin is working to achieve many of their goals.

The August 1991 hardline communist attempt to overthrow the reformist Gorbachev was an attempt to keep the Soviet Union from disintegrating, the organizers said. But it backfired and precipitated the end of the USSR, which collapsed four months later.

"The current leadership is making efforts to restore control over the country," said former Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, flanked by other coup-plotters at the offices of the hardline newspaper Patriot, the first time they had been together in public since a news conference during the coup. "Today they are trying to do what we attempted to do in the Soviet Union in 1991."

Pavlov and other members of the State Emergency Committee said their action was aimed at preventing independent-minded republics from dissolving the Soviet Union and that it failed mostly because they were too cautious to use force and were badly prepared.

The coup plotters announced Gorbachev ill, isolated him at a Black Sea resort and put themselves in charge. They moved armored columns in Moscow, but stopped short of using force against thousands of protesters who rallied behind Boris Yeltsin, at the time the president of the Russian republic.

After just three days, the coup was defeated, its organizers arrested and Gorbachev freed.

"We didn't want to fight against our own people," said former Soviet Vice President Gennady Yanayev who was the formal head of the coup.

Amnesty

The coup plotters were amnestied by parliament in 1994. Some of them later became lawmakers and one, Vasily Starodubtsev, recently won a second term as a provincial governor.

The coup's defeat encouraged former Soviet republics to claim broader independence, and in December 1991 Russia, Ukraine and Belarus announced the Soviet Union defunct, forcing Gorbachev to resign on Dec. 25.

The coup organizers said the ensuing economic meltdown and a string of armed conflicts in Russia and other ex-Soviet republics had proven they were right in trying to stem the Soviet breakup.

"The last 10 years can be summed up in one word—collapse," said former Soviet Defense Minister Dmitry Yazov. "Current leaders have begun to understand it," he added.

Putin has pledged to restore Russia's economic and military power and its international prestige. He has championed a war in breakaway Chechnya and trimmed the powers of Russian regions, putting them under stronger federal control.

"I hope that the current political leadership will learn the lessons of 1991 and keep Russia from breaking up," Pavlov said.

"President Putin has given signals that he was trying to defend Russia's positions at an international arena," Oleg Baklanov, the former chief of Soviet military-industrial complex.

Putin's liberal critics have expressed concern about media freedom in Russia and assailed his decision to restore the old Soviet anthem—albeit with new words. Some eyebrows were raised when Putin invited one of the coup plotters, former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, to his inauguration ceremony in May 2000.

AP

Lahar new threat to Mayon folk

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology yesterday warned that although the worst of Mayon's eruptions may be over, some 23,000 residents around the volcano are still under threat from lahar.

Dr. Manuel Corpuz, Phivolcs chief of instruments, told the INQUIRER that they are not expecting any more big eruptions in the next few days.

"But along the way there will be more sporadic explosions," Corpuz said, adding that another major eruption is a very remote possibility.

Volcanologists at the Lignon Hill here have lowered the alert level status of the volcano to No. 4 Tuesday, a step down from the highest level of the five-stage eruption alert stage.

Corpuz said the latest volume of volcanic debris and pyroclastic materials deposited on the slopes of Mayon during the last two weeks is estimated to be from five to 10 million cubic meters.

This volume, according to recent surveys made by the Phivolcs, is in addition to over 30 million cubic meters of volcanic debris loosely deposited along the volcano's river channels by past eruptions.

The danger zone was reduced to seven kilometers around the volcano.

Cedric Daep, provincial disaster management chief, said he had recommended that about half of the evacuees return home.

But the heads of local government units were advised to take utmost caution in allowing their constituents back in their homes.

Daep said those residing inside the danger zones and areas identified as lahar-threatened have to remain in the evacuation centers.

The disaster management office has identified 50 villages in the province as areas at risk of mudflows because of their proximity to 15 river channels running down from the slopes of Mayon Volcano.

The major channels that contain the volcanic debris and pyroclastic materials are the Mabinit, Bonga, Buyuan-Padang Rivers, which are in the southeastern portion of the volcano. Volcanic materials in these channels directly threaten this city, Daraga and Sto. Domingo towns.

Other channels that contain volcanic materials are threatening Tabaco City, Ligao City and Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Sto. Domingo and Malilipot towns.

Rene Arevalo, regional chief of the Office of Civil Defense, said they have no way detecting mudflows because all the lahar warning gadgets that were installed around the Mayon last year have been destroyed.

The gadgets have not been replaced, he said.

Antonio Arispe, chief weather forecaster here, told the INQUIRER that mudflows might occur following heavy rainfalls.

Arispe said heavy rains brought by typhoon "Feria" and monsoon winds had loosened soil in the province.

He said that aside from lahar, the province is also under threat from flash floods and landslides.

The DPWH said rivers in the province are heavily silted with lahar and other debris.

Oscar Cristobal, DPWH assistant Bicol regional director, said unless the river channels are dredged, some areas in the province would suffer heavily from lahar onslaught.

Cristobal said a comprehensive study done two years ago by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JAICA) had recommended the desilting of the province's rivers and the building of protective dikes. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Nur sacks detractors

COTABATO CITY—Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has sacked three members of his Cabinet who are said to be supportive of the Moro National Liberation Front's 15-man executive council which replaced him as MNLF chair.

Misuari claimed he had been illegally eased out by renegade officials of the council wishing to take control of the erstwhile rebel group.

Misuari has even branded his rivals as traitors in several public appearances.

Misuari issued new appointments, naming Abdurajul Alpha acting regional undersecretary for administration and finance of the education department, replacing Sandra Sema.

Sema is the wife of MNLF secretary general Muslimen Sema, one of the council members.

Dr. Galib Halud of Sulu was appointed regional secretary of the science and technology department, replacing Al-Fatah Abubakar; former Tawi-Tawi Vice Gov. Abubakar Mohammad replaced Awad Hamid as regional secretary of trade and industry.

Misuari assumed both roles previously held by Sema.

Misuari did not cite reasons for the sudden revamp of the ARMM secretariat.

But Suwaib Maulana, president of the ARMM Association of Secondary School Principals, said the "selective reorganization" could be an offshoot of the power struggle within the MNLF.

"If I have to speculate, this (the revamp) could be perhaps because of the leadership crisis in the MNLF organization. And, I believe Bai Sandra (Sema) is just a victim of vengeance," Maulana said. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

3 dead in dawn fire in Iloilo City

ILOILO CITY—Three persons died in a dawn fire that hit the old market in Pototan town, about 34 kilometers north of here, on Wednesday.

Merlyn Pacalita, 17, Jessie Cayangan, 19 and Nestor Franceleso, who was identified by his ring, were charred beyond recognition after they were trapped inside the Tres Bucales Refreshment Parlor.

May Amo, a restaurant waitress who survived the blaze, said the fire started at 3 a.m. after a huge explosion believed to have been set off by a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank inside the establishment.

The fire spread to 12 market stalls nearby before firefighters were able to control it about 30 minutes later. Damage was estimated at P10 million.

Some people survived the fire by jumping off windows. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 28° Lo 23°	Baguio HI 19° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao HI 31° Lo 22°	Laoag HI 29° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 28° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 26° Lo 20°	Legazpi HI 31° Lo 25°	Calapan HI 28° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 30° Lo 24°	Roxas HI 30° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 31° Lo 22°	Davao HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/06/01

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Ex-NPAs slam slow review of peace pact

BACOLOD CITY—Leaders of a breakaway faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines criticized the government for its "snail-paced" review of a peace agreement, which the group signed with the Estrada administration last year.

"Just tell us if the agreement is acceptable or not," said Arturo Tabara, chair of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P), during a clandestine news conference in a mountain village in Silay City July 1.

He said the review of the peace agreement should have a timetable so it would not drag on.

Tabara and Carapali Lualhati, Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) national commander, called on the government to set up a joint enforcement monitoring committee, which will be mutually agreed upon by both parties, to discuss any violation in the peace agreement.

They lamented that after President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, she had prioritized peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines.

The RPM-P broke away from the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army, in the wake of widespread discontent over the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison, who is in self-exile in the Netherlands.

Its armed group, the RPA-ABB, operates nationwide but the bulk of its forces are on Negros Island.

On Dec. 10, 2000, a peace panel headed by then Agriculture Secretary Eduardo Angara, signed a peace agreement in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

But Ms Macapagal formed a panel to review the peace pact shortly after she was installed president on Jan. 20.

Tabara said the panel was tasked to determine how the provisions of the peace agreement would be effectively implemented in accordance with the policy and thrusts of the Macapagal administration.

The panel, chaired by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, is composed of four Cabinet secretaries, two undersecretaries, a representative from the religious sector and another from a non-government organization.

Among the members were Secretaries Hernani Braganza of agrarian reform, Corazon Juliano-Soliman of social welfare, Hernando Perez of justice and Leonardo Montemayor of agriculture.

The other members were Undersecretaries Edgardo Batenga of national defense and Alselmo Avenido Jr. of local government; Bishop Vicente Navarra of the Bacolod Diocese and Lourdes Tison of the Paghiliusa sa Paghidaet-Negros.

The ongoing review stalled the peace talks between the government and the RPM-P, which led to a renewed fighting between soldiers and the breakaway rebel faction.

Two separate encounters occurred last month in La Castellana town and in Silay City, which left three RPA-ABB rebels dead and a soldier wounded.

RPM-P chief negotiator Nilo de la Cruz wrote a complaint to President Macapagal on June 29, condemning what he called the "treachery" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in staging two "attacks" against the RPA-ABB.

De la Cruz said they strongly denounce breaches in the preliminary peace agreement and demanded that the government rectify these violations or else the peace talks would collapse.

The military in Negros Occidental had maintained that the two clashes were encounters, claiming the rebels were the ones who fired first on the soldiers. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Troops kill NPA leader in Panay

ROXAS CITY—A ranking communist rebel was killed and two of his companions were wounded on Wednesday when government troopers raided their lair in a hinterland village in Tapaz town, about 68 kilometers from here.

Killed on the spot was Rogelio Cañonero, 50, alias Commander Bitas, head of the finance committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army Central Panay Front.

He suffered bullet wounds in the head, chest and right leg. His body was brought to a funeral parlor in Tapaz town proper, about eight kilometers from the scene of the raid.

Two of his comrades were wounded but escaped at the height of the firefight, said Capt. Rex Bergante, head of Task Force Panay.

Task Force Panay is composed of the Army's 12 Infantry Battalion, the Special Forces, and the 32nd Reconnaissance Company.

Bergante said Cañonero and at least six of his companions were resting in a nipa hut nestled on a hilly portion of Sitio Lamutian, Barangay Dalunan, when about 15 task force members conducted the raid about 5 a.m.

The place, he added, was considered "isolated" by residents.

A brief firefight ensued, which resulted in the death of Cañonero and the wounding of two others. *Gerry T. Pagharion and Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Resort recovering, say execs

THE DOS Palmas Resort is starting to receive visitors again although it has virtually stopped its marketing efforts until the hostage crisis that started in the resort is resolved.

Dos Palmas resident manager Lyba Godio said in a statement the Honda Bay resort has hosted a few guests since it quietly reopened two weeks ago and has booked a few local guests for the early part of this month.

"We have been getting phone inquiries about our rates. Of course, they also ask about security which we have more than adequately addressed," Godio said, refusing to give details. "Actually the callers themselves volunteer that Dos Palmas should be the safest resort in the country right now."

She said Dos Palmas has dropped its rates to P6,000 per person for three days and two nights. Rates for children are almost half.

But the resort is not advertising this "in deference to those who are still being held hostage," she said.

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Local execs hit dumping of foreign cement in RP

TOWN and city officials yesterday warned of the severe effects on local economies of the continued dumping of cement from foreign countries into the local market.

The warning, made during a hearing at the trade and industry department, came from Mayors Franklin Quijano of Iligan City; Willie Lim of Lugait, Misamis Oriental; Victor Portugal of Taysan, Batangas; Feliciano Legaspi of Norzagaray, Bulacan; and Vice Mayor Ramon Durano IV of Danao City.

The officials' towns and cities host cement manufacturing industries.

In a letter addressed to the DTI, mayors and councilors of various towns and cities said if the dumping of cement continues, their towns and cities would suffer unemployment and other adverse economic effects.

They said the dumping of cement in the country, which has taken the form of government-recognized importation, "will result in more cutbacks in local production and ultimately in the closure of plants and factories."

This, the officials said, "would result in severe economic dislocation for our communities and constituencies who are dependent on the local cement industry for their livelihood and income."

With its unchecked influx since 1998, cement imports have already cornered 24 percent of the market, from only 1.4 percent three years ago.

Imports have continued to grow and has led to the layoff of 4,000 workers in the local cement industry.

Local government officials said public interest should not be restricted to the interest of importers and middlemen who are the only ones benefiting from the import surge.

National policies should take into consideration "the interests of hundreds of thousands who live in the communities and municipalities who will be adversely affected if the local cement industry collapses."

Iligan Mayor Quijano and city council members came in full force at the DTI to express alarm that if the cement industry folds up, Iligan would have to face its second economic death after the collapse of the National Steel Corp.

Leaders of unions in the cement industry said cement imports from Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia had taken away jobs from thousands of workers in the local cement industry in the last two years.

ARRIVALS DOWN

Sayyaf scare sweeps Negros resorts

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Abu Sayyaf scare has taken its toll on the tourism industry of Negros Oriental.

Many resort owners and managers have complained of a decline in tourist arrivals since the abduction of 20 persons from the upscale Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.

Barnd Scheuer, a German and proprietor of Atlantis Beach Resort in Barangay Lipayo, Dauin town, said most of his prospective clients have canceled their reservations after the Palawan kidnappings.

He said only one of the 36 Taiwanese divers, who earlier booked for reservation in his resort, went ahead with their trip. The rest of the divers, he added, had canceled their reservations.

The same thing happened with 14 divers from Hong Kong, said Scheuer. Of the 14, he said, 12 withdrew their reservations a few weeks ago.

Scheuer, who said he has been in the tourism business for more than 20 years in different parts of the world, said foreign tourists are always apprehensive over reports of kidnappings.

Anita Navalles, supervisor of the El Dorado Beach Resort in Dauin, confirmed reports that the number of foreign visitors to their place plummeted following the Dos Palmas kidnappings.

She said tourist occupancy normally drops in June but the Palawan kidnapping worsened the situation.

Beach resorts in Apo Island, a marine sanctuary and a favorite diving spot of foreign and local tourists, also experienced a sharp decline in tourist arrivals.

Alvin Pascubello, manager of the Liberty Beach Resort in the area, said the number of reservations by foreign divers went down dramatically.

Katherine Adiong, manager of Apo Island Beach Resort, said the whole tourism industry in the country was badly affected, not just by the Abu Sayyaf scare but also by the reported series of kidnappings in Metro Manila.

"It (the reported kidnappings) is not a good picture of the country as seen by the outside world," said Adiong.

Supt. Druscillo Bolodo, police director for Negros Oriental, said they were formulating a security plan that would respond to the clamor of beach resort owners for better police protection from lawless elements.

In Apo Island for example, he said more policemen would be deployed to the area. He, however, refused to say how many more policemen would be sent to the resort, citing security reasons.

FLOATING SYMBOLS PHOTO COURTESY OF HAGONOY GOVERNMENT

Mayor Felix Ople (middle) of Hagonoy, Bulacan, lead other officials of the town in releasing white and blue balloons that the officials say symbolize the town's quest for development and peace. The ceremony was held during the inauguration of town officials July 2.

Dads barred from 'texting' during sessions

DAVAO CITY—Visibly irked by colleagues who would rather toy with their mobile phones inside the session hall, a city councilor here said a house rule banning the use of mobile phones during sessions would now be strictly enforced.

Bonifacio Militar, also the council's majority floorleader, said he will also strictly enforce rules prohibiting the reading of newspapers during sessions.

Militar said reading newspapers tend to distract councilors from participating in deliberations of important issues.

He said councilors will not be prohibited from bringing their mobile phones inside the session hall but these should be turned off, so as not disturb the proceedings.

"(Texting and calls) will not be allowed. (They) are not there to just receive calls," Militar said.

During Tuesday's session, newsmen observed that a number of councilors were busy browsing newspapers, or exchanging text messages while a heated deliberation was going on.

The deliberation was on whether the present SP will adopt or not house rules set by its predecessor which included the ban on cellphone use and newspaper reading.

Aside from trying to make councilors attentive, Militar also said he would limit the break enjoyed by members of the city council.

Until the last council, members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod enjoy a 45-day break per year. The break is to give them a chance to conduct barangay consultations.

In Zamboanga del Norte, members of the provincial board learned on Tuesday that for a session to go smoothly, one should speak loud when voting.

After the reorganization of the 19 standing committees, board member Florentino Daarol moved for the adoption of a resolution thanking the voters of Zamboanga del Norte "for voting according to their conscience and for a clean, honest and peaceful conduct of election."

Citing the urgency of the resolution, Daarol asked the body to immediately act on his proposal, which caused majority floorleader Paulino Gudmalin to move for the suspension of the house rules.

Board member Prime Abarquez raised his hand and seconded the motion for the suspension of the rules, but it seems nobody heard him when Vice Gov. Eduardito Pacatang, SP presiding officer said: "If there is no second, we have no other choice but to give the proposed resolution to the committee on rules."

Apparently annoyed that his seconding the motion was not credited, Abarquez again stood and said: "I second the motion," but was interrupted when another board member complained that no member can second a motion after the presiding officer has already ruled.

Abarquez said he already seconded and was just reiterating it.

The session was suspended for a few minutes to give way to an inquiry whether Abarquez really seconded before vice governor Pacatang ruled.

But even the secretariat failed to take note of Abarquez's seconding the motion although the board secretary said he saw the boardmember raise his hand.

The matter was solved when Gudmalin withdrew his motion to suspend the rules. Daarol also withdrew his motion on the urgency of the resolution.

And for the second time, Pacatang ruled that the proposed resolution be given to the committee on rules.

"At the rate, by the time we'll approve the resolution, we will (already) be greeting each other Happy Easter," a boardmember commented. *Allan Nawal and Bert Laput, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

₱7M in jewelry taken in heist

TACLOBAN CITY—Three unidentified suspects stole at least P7-million worth of jewelry from a pawnshop in Ormoc City on June 30.

The robbery was discovered 9 a.m. Monday when the pawnshop employees saw that the vault containing the jewelry was already opened.

The pawnshop is on the ground floor of the Pongos Lodging House on Abilles Street.

In a report to Senior Supt. Nardito Yoro, police chief for Eastern Visayas, Supt. Orlando Mabutas, Ormoc police chief, said the suspects rented two rooms in the building's second floor three days before the robbery.

Mabutas said the suspects broke into the pawnshop by drilling a hole in the floor of their room, which was right above the pawnshop.

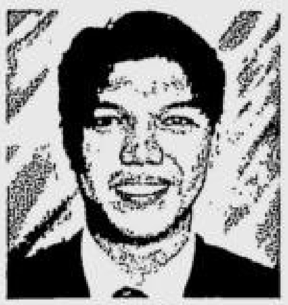
The police officer said the suspects used acetylene, a chemical that melts metal, to open the vault containing the jewelry. *Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST
Philippines

Congratulates

the UE topnotchers and
other successful examinees in the May 2001 Dentist Licensure Examinations and as certified by the Professional Regulation Commission the following UE examinees garnered the rank indicated:

Dr. AILEEN M. MENDOZA
Third Place



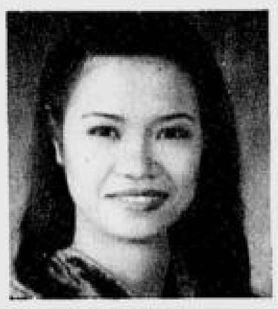
Dr. CHIRSTOPHER M. AGGABAO Jr.
Sixth Place

Dr. MA. ROWENA P. DELOS REYES
Twelfth Place

Dr. EDITH C. ESPIRITU
Fourteenth Place

Dr. CHRISTINE L. MATEO
Fifteenth Place

Dr. CRISANTA D. MONTIEL
Eighteenth Place



Dr. JESSICA M. DOMINGO
Twentieth Place

Other Successful UE Examinees

Charisma F. Abejero, Gem Owen F. Abejero, Irene L. Acebo, Primitivo T. Acob Jr., Sonia U. Algabre, Armie A. Almendrala, Maricar B. Aquino, Byron Xavier R. Bacani, Alma Zehcnas S. Bajaro, Lenny G. Balanquit, Anthony E. Balcita, Julie Ann D. Batapa, Clarence C. Bermundo, Alf H. Bunes, Dey R. Cabusora, Maria Lourdes Bernadette S. Calangi, Albert L. Chan Jr., Kim T. Coeli, Jhoana Carol Laine M. Conde, Maela B. Cruz, Alfredo R. Custodio.

Michelle R. Dancel, Ma. Antonnette S. De Gracia, Ivy Renee G. Dela Paz, Moullen B. Delos Reyes, Grace A. Domincel, Gilberto B. Domingo, Jaclyn M. Dungca, Vina T. Enrile, Marie Catherine P. Estrellado, Annabelle G. Fallesgon, Joy Christine B. Felizardo, Efraim S. Florendo, Karen Mara C. Formoso, Leilani R. Galang, Ginalyn L. Garcia, Lorie Liza R. Garcia, Rogelio M. Garcia Jr., Maria Gracita S. Gobot, Michelle N. Gonzales, Dorothy M. Guinto.

Mahashina A. Hassan, Rhenee Rose E. Igna, Maria Fatima P. Jimenez, Joyce Rizza J. Josef, Marjorie Gay P. Lapid, Mary Anne P. Laxamana, Ana Leah M. Libed, Anilette D. Lim, Benedict M. Macaltao, Maria Doreen D. Madeja, Milyn R. Malaluan, Rochelle P. Mammuad, Maria Laureen M. Mangubat, Ana G. Mapolon, Sherlyn G. Marinas, Leilani S. Mateo, Anwar Blair C. Mejia, Jennifer S. Mercado, Rowena G. Navarro.

Cynthia P. Nazareno, Veronica M. Nieva, Maria Herberta D. Nuguid, Monet Juliana T. Oblea, Hilario A. Obordo, Dong H. Oh, Helen Grace I. Orjalo, Christianne Angeli G. Palma, Sheila Marie A. Palomar, Daisy C. Paragan, Ruby S. Pascua, Galahad T. Perea, Sheila Marie C. Perez, Giovanni A. Pinaroc, Ruthy A. Pocallan, Rachel A. Ramirez, Michelle M. Ramos, Maria Fe M. Reyes, Irine A. Salinas, Oliver G. Sandoval.

Maria Cecilia M. Santos, Shella A. Santos, Liza Marie V. Sayoc, Maria Imelda A. Silvestre, Danette Faith D. Soriano, Ma. Gaye C. Taca, Jessie T. Tavara, Ana Rechell V. Tenio, Lilet M. Tolentino, Marichu D. Tubera, Mildred M. Turia, Lutgarda L. Umali, Charito P. Upao, Gesilla Y. Urian, Jonald M. Valdez, Marilyn R. Valdez, Ma. Geraldine D. Velasco, Viwena Theresa C. Versola, Jennie Anne M. Vicedo, and Reynaldo M. Villacorta II.

Oath-Taking

As announced by the Professional Regulation Commission, the new dentists will take their oath en masse on Friday, July 6, 1:00 p.m. at the Manila Midtown Hotel, M. Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila.

UE passing percentage – 87%

National passing percentage – 38%

Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner–honoring the UE topnotchers, other successful UE examinees and the UE College of Dentistry faculty–will be tendered by the UE Administration on Friday, July 6, 7:00 p.m. at the Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila.

Abenson marks 40th branch

Abenson expands anew, this time in the progressive area of Marikina, inside Riverbanks Mall. On July 7, Abenson begins servicing the Marikina folks. Honorable Mayor Maribes Carlos Fernando, Abenson officers, business partners and guests will grace the event.

Residents of Marikina can now avail of Abenson's complete line of audio-video equipment, home appliances, small appliances, and electronics from no less than the major brands like Sony, Sharp, JVC, Pioneer, Sanyo, National/Panasonic, LG, Carrier, Whirlpool, and more.

Home Plus Furniture is also part of this new store, showcasing a gorgeous collection of furniture pieces like living room sets, dining/kitchen, bedroom, office furniture, plus exciting accessoriesa and furnishings.

To get you closer to your dream appliances, easy payment options are also available. Aside from cash and installment schemes, Abenson also accepts major credit cards.

By simply visiting the store, you can be part of Abenson's opening promo, the free raffle dubbed as "Visit & Win." Also, check out the items on sale and low interest rates with Equitable VISA & MasterCard, and other affiliate banks.

With Abenson's 40th branch at Riverbanks, it'll once again fulfill its mission of bringing the Good Life closer to the Filipino consumer.

The new appliance outlet is located at the ground floor of Riverbanks Mall in Marikina. See you there!

your partner to good life. your partner to good life.your partner to good life. your partner to good life. your partner to good life.your partner to good life.your partner to good life. your partner to good life.
ABENSON
170 liters (6 cu.ft.)
258 liters (10 cu.ft.)
FLAT TV
VEGA
(21")
53.34cm
SPECIAL INSTALLMENT RATES
LOW
LOW LOW INTEREST
Equitable CARD
VISA
MasterCard
on 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 & 24 mos.
Fully Automatic Electric Dryer
129 liters (5 cu.ft.)
522 liters (18.5 cu.ft.)
Fully Automatic Washing Machine
(21")
53.34cm
your partner to good life. your partner to good life. your partner to good life.your partner to good life. your partner to good life. your partner to good life.your partner to good life.

SONY
CCD-TR618
Handycam
- Hi8
- Night Shot
- 20 x Optical Zoom (450x digital)

BASE PRICE
P20999
CARD PRICE
P2104 /mo
(12 mos.)

SAMSUNG
MW4390W
Microwave Oven
- 0.7 cu.ft.
- 700 Watts

BASE PRICE
P5000
CARD PRICE
P501.08 /mo
(12 mos.)

SANYO
SR-707NM
Single Door Ref.
BASE PRICE
P8808
CARD PRICE
P882.87 /mo
(12 mos.)

SHARP
ES-701XP
7.0 kg Dry load capacity
Fully Automatic Washing Machine
BASE PRICE
P13788
CARD PRICE
P1381 /mo
(12 mos.)

SONY
KV-PF21N70
CTV
BASE PRICE
P16500
CARD PRICE
P1653.50 /mo
(12 mos.)

SAMSUNG
SR-34NMA
2-Door
CFC-Free Ref.
BASE PRICE
P18495
CARD PRICE
P1853 /mo
(12 mos.)

SANYO
SAT-79P
¾ HP
Room Aircon
w/ Timer
BASE PRICE
P9998
CARD PRICE
P1001.92 /mo
(12 mos.)

SHARP
DVD 720T
DVD/Video CD/
CD Player w/
DTS Output
& Mp3
BASE PRICE
P13998
CARD PRICE
P1402 /mo
(12 mos.)

laGERMANIA
521WRG
2 Gas & 1 Electric
Burner Range
- Rotisserie
- Gas Grill

BASE PRICE
P10350
CARD PRICE
P1037.20 /mo
(12 mos.)

aiwa
Mini Hi-Fi System
w/ VCD Player
NSX-VC43
1700W PMPO
BASE PRICE
P12490
CARD PRICE
P1251 /mo
(12 mos.)

laGERMANIA
720WTR
1 Turbo,
1 Large &
2 Medium
Gas Top
Burners &
1 Electric
Gas Range
BASE PRICE
P16535
CARD PRICE
P1657 /mo
(12 mos.)

aiwa
Mini Hi-Fi System
NSX-BL24
1200W PMPO
BASE PRICE
P7990
CARD PRICE
P800.70 /mo
(12 mos.)

LG
WP-710N
4.5 kg Twin Tub
Washing Machine
w/ Rat-Proof Plastic
Base
BASE PRICE
P5995
CARD PRICE
P600.90 /mo
(12 mos.)

Carrier
AGNRT090BA
1 HP
Room Aircon
w/ Timer
BASE PRICE
P15525
CARD PRICE
P1555.70 /mo
(12 mos.)

Whirlpool
4LEC7646
10.5 Fully
Automatic
Electric Dryer
BASE PRICE
P22450
CARD PRICE
P2249 /mo
(12 mos.)

National
NR-A1407PE
Single Door
Ref.
BASE PRICE
P8299
CARD PRICE
P831.70 /mo
(12 mos.)

LG
GR-632
2-Door CFC-Free
No Frost Ref.
w/ Door Cooling
System
BASE PRICE
P34500
CARD PRICE
P3457.21 /mo
(12 mos.)

Carrier
ASBFM360BA
3 Toner
Floor Type
Aircon
BASE PRICE
P53000
CARD PRICE
P5311 /mo
(12 mos.)

Whirlpool
4LBR8255
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic
Washing Machine
BASE PRICE
P[illegible]
CARD PRICE
P2254.90 /mo
(12 mos.)

Panasonic
TC-21SF2
CTV w/
Panablack
Picture Tube
BASE PRICE
P11999
CARD PRICE
P1202 /mo
(12 mos.)

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT# 2142, SERIES OF 2001

PROMO DURATION: JULY 6-30, 2001

E-mail us at abshmkt@the.net.ph

Alabang tels. 850-8848 to 50; **Ever Ortigas** 656-6643 to 47; **Farmers Cubao** 911-1071; **Alabang Filinvest, Festival Mall** 850-3775 or 79; **Grand Central, Kalookan** 363-5246/363-5338; **Harrison Plaza** 521-8568/69; **Jaka, Sucat** 829-2686/88; **Las Pinas** 872-0576/77; **Mandaluyong** 631-5188/633-9612/631-8161 to 64; **Metropolis, Muntinlupa** 809-8172/74; **Pearl Plaza, Tambo, Paranaque** 851-8401 to 05; **Quad 1, Makati** 812-6748/816-3991; **Regalado, Fairview** 937-5911; **Robinsons Ermita** 536-8029/536-7914; **Robinsons Galleria** 632-9101 to 05; **Rustan's Cubao** 911-2312/13; **Shangri-la Plaza** 638-8017 to 19; **SM City Carpark** 920-9151 to 53/926-8829; **Unimart, Greenhills** 721-0590/84; **Waltermart, Pasong Tamo** 813-4444/894-3730; **Waltermart, E. Rodriguez** 724-2528; **Fiesta World Mall, Lipa, Batangas** (043)404-1657/(043)404-1655; **Meycauayan, Bulacan** (044)228-2117; **Carmona, Cavite** (046)430-2702 to 04; **Imus, Cavite- Lotus Mall** (046)515-5749; **Robinsons Imus** (046)471-8020/30; **Gen.Trias, Cavite** (046)419-1150; **Rosario, Cavite** (046)438-5450; **Waltermart, Dasmarinas** (046)416-2104; **Olivares Mall, Biñan, Laguna** (049)241-2651; **Pavillion Mall, Biñan, Laguna** (049) 411-4510/11; **San Pablo, Laguna** (049)562-8242; **Waltermart, Calamba, Laguna** (049)545-7035; **Waltermart, Sta. Rosa, Laguna** (049)549-1243; **Cainta, Sta. Lucia 1** 645-0402/04; **Cainta 2, Sta. Lucia 3** 681-5301 to 05; and, **Luisita, Tarlac** (045)985-1278.

Abenson @ Metropolis Star

Abenson re-opened its Metropolis Star Mall branch (Muntinlupa City) last June 28. Located near the entrance (a few steps to your left), Abenson just got bigger and better. Appliance shopping is made extra enjoyable with more product selections and a wider space.

The event was graced by Abenson officers, business partners, and guests, commencing with mass and blessing ceremonies.

Muntinlupa residents can now avail of the same services that make Abenson the place to be. They can bring home the best brands thru cash payment, major credit cards, or installment schemes.

Check out this new appliance outlet at the ground level of Metropolis Star Mall, as there are lots of exciting surprises that await you.

Rates are pouring down with Abenson & Equitable

When it rains, it pours. Abenson customers cum Equitable cardholders are up for a drenching surprise with special interest rates on deferred payment with 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 & 24 monthly installment schemes from July 1 to 30, 2001.

The low rates storm all 40 Abenson branches in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces. Using your Equitable VISA and MasterCard thru its affiliate banks like Keppel Monte, Prudential, Royal Traders, and Land Bank, you can bring home your most wanted appliances like audio-video, home appliances and more.

Visit Abenson Glorietta, Quad 1 and Sta.Lucia Phase 3 and avail of cellular phones and accessories.

For more info, call 631-5188. Don't let the rain stop you from getting your dream appliances at Abenson. Catch the rate downfall that only Abenson & Equitable VISA/MasterCard can give. Check us out now!

Typhoon 'Feria' isolates Baguio City

(From page A1)

more casualties in the provinces of Ifugao, Apayao and the Mt. Province.

In Baguio, among the dead are Lt. Col. Armando Manligod of the Philippine Military Academy and Barangay Captain Josephine Albon of Pinsao.

Manaligod was killed Wednesday afternoon when a pine tree fell on the taxicab he was riding in. Albon, 60, died while trying to help rescue a family trapped in a collapsed house in Tamawan village.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will make a "quick" visit today to Pangasinan and Abra to check conditions there, according to her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

The President would have made the visit yesterday but for the bad weather, Tiglao said.

A DSWD report to Malacañang said 35,588 persons from 8,335 families in the Ilocos, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and Southern Luzon had been affected by the typhoon since Wednesday.

Social Welfare Undersecretary Clifford Burkley said that 37 evacuation centers had been put up in the affected areas, and that the DSWD had assisted 19,877 persons inside and outside the evacuation centers.

Assistance from the national government, local government units and nongovernment organizations has so far amounted to P370.5 million.

Rescue, search

Government and volunteer rescue teams in Baguio began working around the clock Wednesday morning amid strong winds and pummeling rain to dig out the living and the dead in landslides.

At least 44 people were reported injured in Baguio and Benguet.

Knee-to-waist-high waters inundated Baguio's central business district and residential areas in the city proper on Wednesday leading to the evacuation of 86 families.

The floods subsided yesterday but classes in all levels were suspended.

Toppled pine trees, minor landslides and debris like GI sheets and tree branches blocked some roads in the city on Wednesday, but these were cleared yesterday.

Hundreds of passengers were stranded along a section of Marcos Highway, a major link of Baguio to Metro Manila and lowland provinces, after landslides rendered portions of the highway impassable.

Landslides also affected sections of Naguilian and Kennon Roads, forcing authorities to close these routes to traffic.

A team from the Philippine Army and the Department of Public Works and Highways began clearing rocks and mud that blocked a section of Naguilian yesterday morning.

Halsema Highway, a major link of Baguio to the interior Cordillera provinces, was also closed to traffic because of landslides.

At press time, DPWH teams had been sent to clear the blocked portions of Marcos Highway.

The section of the mountain highway in Barangay Ponkan in Carranglan town was closed to traffic because of landslides. The highway is a major link to and from the provinces of Cagayan Valley.

Sections of the Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, remained closed.

Cagayan Valley residents bound for Metro Manila were stranded in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

Some towns of Isabela and Cagayan were also flooded, according to reports received by the INQUIRER.

Body count

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said in Cagayan, Rodolfo de Guzman was electrocuted at the height of the typhoon on Wednesday afternoon. A victim of drowning has yet to be identified.

The others killed in Baguio were identified as Julian Sagandoy, 2; June Mabiasan; Rebecca Rojo; Ana Belocelo; Margie Oyao; Renante Boyangos; Pauline Opac; Lorraine Grail Elpidio, 10; Lord Christian Elpidio, 19; Hermenegildo Evangelista, 72; Mark Paul Ferraren, 2; Bobby Abrieu, 46; Jellyn Tampican, 11, and her mother Ludovina Tampican, 40. Three others have yet to be identified.

Five persons were reported missing in Baguio.

In La Trinidad, among those confirmed dead were Twinkle Dagiyap of Buyagan; Rita Dagasen and Ricardo Dagasen of Camp ,Dangwa; Hans Adrian and Querubin Cruz of Camp Dangwa; Mila, Remie and Allen Tulapin of Little Kibungan; Linda, Ellen, Allon and one other member of the Tacaden family of Wangal; and Martin Lee of Buyagan.

Records of the Benguet Provincial Disaster Coordinating Center (PDCC) showed that five people were killed in Buguias town and one in Bokod.

The five Buguias fatalities were reportedly aboard two jeepneys when a landslide along Halsema Highway hit the vehicles.

The reports also showed that nine people were missing in Atok town, eight in La Trinidad, five in Buguias, three in Tublay and two in Tuba.

In the Abra capital of Bangued, about 150 families were evacuated from their homes.

Flash floods

In Pangasinan, the PDCC said 10 people were either drowned or electrocuted in flash floods triggered by the release of excess water from the reservoirs of Binga and Ambuklao Dams in Benguet starting Wednesday afternoon.

The PDCC said five people were killed in Mangaldan town; two in Asingan; and one each in Urdaneta City and the towns of San Manuel and Binalonan.

Flash floods rising between 6 and 10 feet have submerged at least eight towns in eastern Pangasinan.

Policeman Marco Valerio was directing traffic at the Aloragat Bridge in Binalonan when it collapsed because of the strong river current at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The body of Valerio, 32, was recovered Thursday morning in the Cacabalaoan River in Laoac town.

The names of the others killed in Pangasinan were not available at press time.

Water from upstream Binga passes through tributaries of the Agno River in eastern and central Pangasinan before draining into the Lingayen Gulf.

Five villages in Manaoag town were submerged in floodwaters, forcing residents to flee to their rooftops.

Evacuation efforts were hampered after a PDCC rubber boat burst upon hitting an aluminum wire while negotiating the floodwaters.

In Ilocos Norte, eight towns were reported flooded on Thursday.

Provincial officials have asked the President to declare Ilocos Norte in a state of calamity.

Central Luzon

Hundreds of homes in five villages in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, were swamped by up to 4 feet of floodwaters when an irrigation dike along the Talavera River burst at 3:30 a.m. yesterday, according to reports from the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

Several villages were reported isolated from the town center of Aliaga as floodwaters rose while the residents were sleeping.

A number of residents had to flee to their rooftops.

Rescue teams from the Philippine National Police's Central Luzon Command in Pampanga and the Army's Northern Luzon Command in Tarlac were sent to Aliaga yesterday morning.

Also flooded were at least 10 villages in the towns of Guimba, Sto. Domingo and Talavera.

At least 20 houses in Barangay San Pascual in Talavera were submerged in 5 to 6 feet of floodwaters.

All roads in the towns of Pantabangan, Llanera and Rizal and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija were closed because of the overflowing Talavera River.

Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III has ordered the deployment of dump trucks to the affected towns to ferry stranded residents. He also ordered mayors of affected towns to use their calamity funds to provide for the needs of their constituents.

In Pampanga, 14 villages in Minalin, Macabebe and Sto. Tomas towns were flooded by at least 2 feet.

The DPWH ordered the closure of the Friendship Bridge in Angeles City as the floodwaters might cause its base to collapse.

In Bulacan, 25 villages in Obando, Hagonoy, Bulacan and Meycauayan towns were flooded, forcing the suspension of classes in the province.

In Zambales, 26 families from the flooded poblacion area in Sta. Cruz town were evacuated.

Visayas

In the Visayas, two persons died while more than 10,000 families were displaced when Feria hit Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Aklan on Wednesday.

Power was cut in four towns and two cities in Negros Occidental after strong winds toppled electric posts. Zosimo Briones, chief of the National Power Corp. in Negros Occidental, said his men were still working to restore power lines in the cities of Talisay and Silay and the towns of San Enrique, Pulupandan, Valladolid and La Castellana.

Killed at the height of the typhoon were Hermie Herrera, an employee of the Guimaras provincial government, and Ricardo Estremera III, a farmer from Negros Occidental.

Vic Defante, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Team of Negros Occidental, said Estremera was swept away by strong currents when he, astride his carabao, crossed the river in Sitio Ubay, Barangay Binicuil, in Kabankalan City.

Herrera died when strong waves in the Iloilo Strait capsized the motorboat he was riding in Wednesday afternoon.

The M/B Messiah, a wooden-hulled boat, gave way when one of its outriggers broke. Other motorboats rescued its 26 passengers and four crew.

Herrera's fellow passengers said "hard cargo" hit his head, rendering him unconscious. Rescuers fished his body out of the waters.

In Aklan, at least 10,000 families were evacuated when floods hit the towns of Kalibo, Numancia, Lezo, Malinao, Banga, Madalag and Libacao.

The Aklan River overflowed and submerged slum areas along C. Laserna Street, Barangay Mobo, in the town proper and parts of Barangay Andagao, Pook and Caano, all in the capital town of Kalibo.

Across the Aklan River to the west in Numancia town, Barangays Bulwang, Camanci Norte, Camanci Sur, Pusiw, Laguinbanua East and Laguinbanua West were also flooded.

In Iloilo City, strong winds battered coastal communities starting Tuesday night, leaving 11 families homeless and 202 houses damaged.

The worst hit was Barangay Sto. Niño Sur in Arevalo, where four houses were wrecked and 97 were damaged by strong waves from the Iloilo Strait.

Many areas of Iloilo City were also under water because of the heavy rains, clogged drainage canals and garbage-choked waterways.

Rescue efforts were slowed down by a power outage that started Tuesday night and lasted until late Wednesday night.

In Antique, an Indonesian cargo vessel developed engine trouble and was beached by strong winds in Sitio Alojado, Barangay Abiera, Sebaste town.

Walter Galido, Coast Guard auxiliary based in Sebaste, told station dyIN Bombo Radyo that the MV Caronia Lestare II was on its way back to Indonesia from the Subic Bay port when it developed engine trouble in waters off Antique.

No one was hurt among its 25-man crew. As of yesterday, Galido said, the crew was still trying to repair the ship engine.

According to Galido, the vessel has a Jakarta, Indonesia, registry and is owned by a PT Pelayaran, Nakabangka.

It docked at the Subic Bay port on June 29 to unload its cargo of animal feed.

In Cebu City, an unregistered motorized boat capsized at dawn yesterday about 4.5 nautical miles off Pangi-an, Point, Punta Engaño, Lapulapu City, Mactan Island.

The eight passengers of Motorboat Diony B clung to it for six hours before they were rescued by a passing cargo vessel.

The boat, which was loaded with three tons of fresh bangus, left the Talibon Bohol port Wednesday night and was bound for the Pasil Port in Cebu City. ***Reports from Frank Cimatu, Nathan Alcantara, Yolanda Fuertes, Robert Abano and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ma. Diosa Labiste, Carla P. Gomez, Odon S. Bandiola and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Christine Avendano, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Carlito Pablo in Manila***

Feria heads for Southern China

TYPHOON Feria (international code name: Utor) headed yesterday to Southern China, but sunny weather cannot be expected just yet.

The weather bureau said the tail of the typhoon would continue to bring rains over western sections of Luzon and the Visayas, including Pangasinan province, the Mt. Pinatubo area and Metro Manila.

According to Pagasa's satellite and surface data, the eye of the typhoon was 475 kilometers northwest of Laoag City or 490 km west northwest of Calayan, Cagayan, at 4 p.m. yesterday, with the strongest sustained winds of 130 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 160 kph.

Feria was forecast to move northwest at 19 kph in the general direction of Southern China.

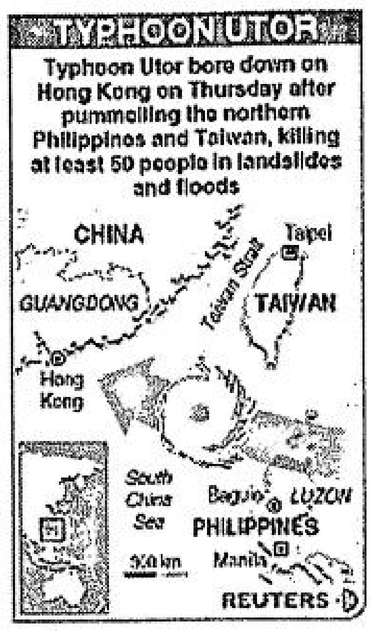
It is expected to be 140 km north of Hong Kong this afternoon.

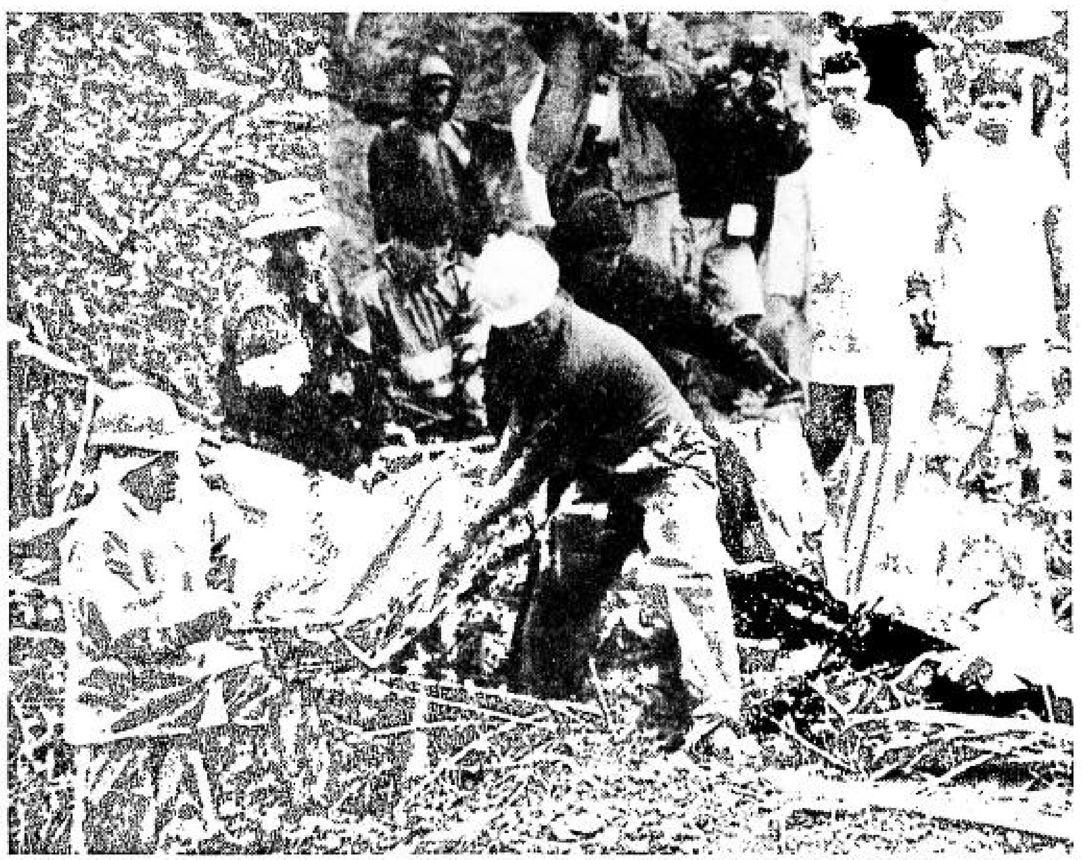
Philippine Airlines yesterday cancelled its last flight from Manila to Hong Kong, PR 310, as well as the return service to Manila, PR 311.

Passengers on these flights will be accommodated on the first available flights today, PAL said in a statement.

PR 310 was scheduled to depart Manila at 5:45 p.m. yesterday. PR 311 would have departed Hong Kong at 8:50 p.m.

Feria was tracked late yesterday afternoon over the Batanes islands, effectively blocking the flight paths of PR 310 and PR 311, PAL said. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***


TYPHOON UTOR
Typhoon Utor bore down on Hong Kong on Thursday after pummelling the northern Philippines and Taiwan, killing at least 50 people in landslides and floods
CHINA
Taipei
Taiwan Strait
GUANGDONG
TAIWAN
Hong Kong
South China Sea
Baguio
LUZON
PHILIPPINES
Manila
300 km
REUTERS

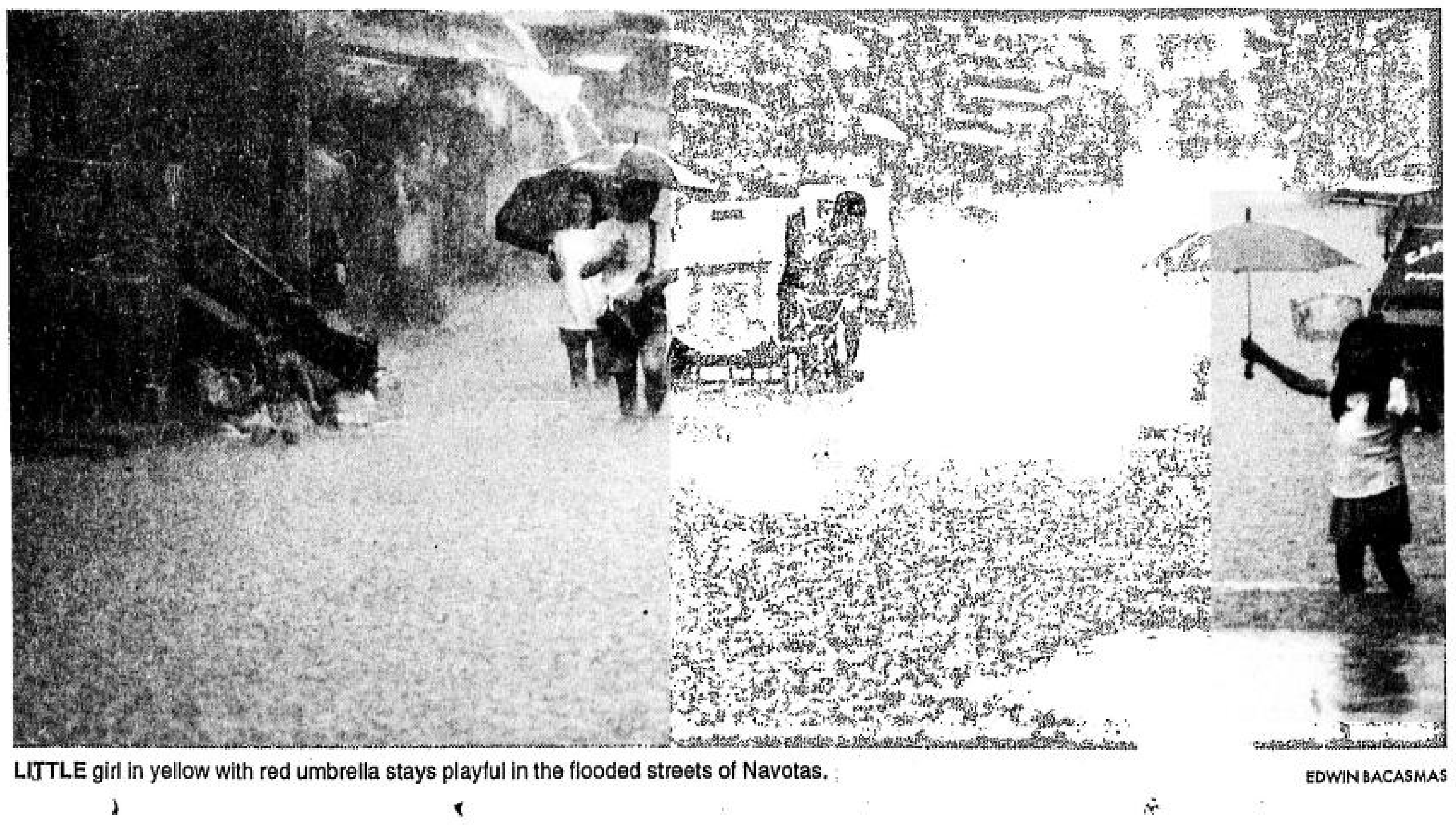


TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

RESCUE workers dig up a dead teenager near Barangay Camp 7 along Kennon Road in Baguio City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

SURREAL landscape in Navotas is typical after every storm.



LITTLE girl in yellow with red umbrella stays playful in the flooded streets of Navotas.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria set to visit 7 . . .

(From page A1)

have to juggle her time between affairs of state and visits to at least seven countries, where she has standing invitations as well as important summits to attend.

Malaysia is first on the list, with her trip scheduled on Aug. 8-9.

"The visit is meant to cement the renewed close ties between the two countries," a Malacañang source, who asked not to be named, said yesterday.

Ties between Manila and Kuala Lumpur were strained during the early part of the administration of Joseph Estrada, Ms Macapagal's disgraced predecessor.

Estrada had a falling out with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the issue of his defense of Mahathir's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, who was arrested for alleged corruption.

Relations between the two countries have since become better, and further improved after Mahathir reportedly helped make possible the ongoing peace talks between the Philippine government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

After Malaysia, Ms Macapagal will visit Singapore and Brunei on Aug. 22-25, the Malacañang source said

In September, she is scheduled to visit Japan.

This was allegedly why the Palace urged Congress during a special session in June to fast-track the appointment of former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. as the country's next ambassador to Japan.

However, the special session failed to see Siazon's appointment through.

In October, the President will again fly off to attend the annual Asia Pacific Economic Conference summit scheduled in Shanghai.

In November, she will attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit to be held in Brunei.

But that's not the end of the list.

According to the source, Malacañang is also now preparing for the President's possible state visit to the United States, tentatively scheduled in November.

Isafp turns out to be Ador's handlers

(From page A1)

conclusion.

"We were shocked when we heard Ador's charges but I would rather not make conclusions about his statements," said Corpus.

Corpus said Isafp was verifying Ador's allegations.

"At this point, we note that other persons have begun to contact Ador. Apparently there are others who want to surface but the problem is whether they have the guts to come out with what they know," Corpus said.

Why Lacson mad at Corpus

The Isafp chief disclosed in a radio interview that the military had been looking into Lacson's reported participation in criminal activities even before Ador had confessed to his role in crimes allegedly staged by the defunct PAOCTF.

Corpus said Isafp had been receiving derogatory information on Lacson before he was appointed director general of the Philippine National Police in 1999. Lacson concurrently headed the PNP and PAOCTF.

"For so long now, we have been receiving reports about Ping's (Lacson's nickname) involvement in various crimes," Corpus told radio station dzBB.

Asked by radio anchor Arnold Clavio whether Isafp had received such information even before Lacson became PNP chief, Corpus responded, "that's the report we have been getting."

"So whether or not Ador decided to surface and reveal what he knows, (the Isafp) probe continues," the military intelligence chief said.

Corpus refused to give details of what Isafp knew about Lacson's alleged links to criminal activities.

CORPUS

LACSON

"During the time we were asked to assist in solving syndicated crimes, that was when we started receiving reports of Ping's involvement," he said.

"I think that's the reason why he got mad at me," Corpus added.

The Isafp chief hinted that other than this, he saw no reason for Lacson to get mad at him. "Ping and I have never clashed," he said.

Corpus told the INQUIRER Wednesday that he once had the chance to teach Lacson, then a cadet at the Philippine Military Academy. Corpus belongs to Batch '67, while Lacson is a member of Batch '71.

Visit to safehouses

On Wednesday afternoon, Ador accompanied Isafp agents, the INQUIRER and GMA-7 to four areas in Metro Manila that allegedly figured in the operations staged by Lacson's group.

In the Senate, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national security and defense, said the government should determine as soon as possible whether Ador is telling the truth.

The opposition senator said Ador's charges, if left hanging, could erode the integrity of the Senate as an institution.

"Right now, the Ador statement is taking a lot of twist and turns, a lot of surprises. Unfortunately these twist and turns are straining the credibility of a lot of our governmental institutions . . . the Senate included," Biazon said.

Another neophyte senator has been linked by Ador to an illegal practice.

Ador is accusing Sen. Noli de Castro as one of the three ABS-CBN broadcast personalities who was allegedly in the payola of Lacson.

"So, it is important that we exhaust all possible means to determine the veracity and credibility of Ador's revelations," he said.

Confusing

Biazon said he found Mawanay's statements "confusing."

If the NBI, Isafp and the PNP intelligence office are doing the investigation, it is best that they lose no time in coming out with their findings, according to Biazon.

Until they do so, he said it was best that the Senate defer its planned investigation of the matter.

"We should give the appropriate agencies a chance to have the first crack at resolving the revelations of agent Ador," Biazon said.

In an interview with radio dzXL, Lacson admitted that Ador's allegations were affecting his efforts to prepare for legislative work. The 12th Congress opens on July 23.

Lacson said it was good that his family continued to have faith in him.

"They know me better than anybody else. They know where I get the money to feed them and pay for their schooling. They know the kind of person that I am. That's the most important thing in a family," the former PNP chief said.

For his part, De Castro said he was unfazed by Ador's allegation that he received payola from the PNP.

"No matter what they say, what is important is whether they are credible or whether there is evidence to what they are saying," De Castro said on radio dzRH.

In an interview with dzBB, De Castro said it was important for investigating agencies to determine the veracity of Ador's claims.

If there is basis, it is better that the Senate committees on security and on ethics investigate Ador's allegations so that "we can grill Lacson," De Castro said.

Ador has also alleged that the PAOCTF abducted and murdered casino employee Edgar Bentain in 1999.

He said Bentain was placed in a drum and buried alive in Bacolor, Pampanga.

Woman saw drum

A woman, who claims to have seen a "drum full of cement" near the site where Bentain was dumped, is now in the custody of Isafp.

The woman identified only as "Julie" told military investigators that she saw the drum "around two to three years ago" while looking for stones in Bacolor.

Bentain was reportedly abducted and killed for releasing a video of then Vice President Joseph Estrada playing baccarat in a Manila casino. The video was played on national television at the start of the 1998 presidential campaign.

Speaking in Filipino, Julie said she became interested in the drum as it was still new and could be used to hold water.

"I asked my husband to get it but when we saw the contents (cement), he complained that it was probably heavy," Julie said.

"I said it would be a waste (not to get it) since it was still new, but he said 'I should just leave it alone,'" she added.

Julie said a councilor in the area who heard about her experience urged her to tell the authorities about the drum.

Sources, who listened to Julie's story, said Julie found the drum near the site where Ador supposedly saw his colleagues dump Bentain.

Star witness

The family of Bentain wants Ador to be the star witness when it files a case against those behind Bentain's abduction and murder in 1999.

Bentain's brother Edcel said he and his family would file appropriate charges against those who masterminded his brother's killing once Bentain's body is recovered.

Victims of swindling

Ador's alleged victims of swindling yesterday called radio stations to accuse the ex-agent of stealing their cellular phones.

They said Ador convinced them to surrender their Nokia cell phones in exchange for better models.

Ador also asked for a few thousand pesos along with their phones, the supposed victims said.

GMA-7 received a complaint from a certain Father Ben, who claimed Ador gypped his sacristan to part with his cell phone.

"Ador nearly got my cell phone too, except that I knew better," Father Ben told "Unang Hirit," GMA's early morning television program Wednesday.

In radio station dzBB hours later, a male caller, who identified himself as Nico, said Ador got his wife's 3310 cell phone and promised to replace it with an 8210 model if the couple added some cash.

Nico alleged that Ador "hypnotized his wife to make her agree to surrender her phone. If only I can punch his face," Nico said.

Ador laughed off Nico's charges in a later interview. "If I knew how to hypnotize Nico's wife, I should have gotten her along with the cell phone," he said.

GMA approval rating . . .

(From page A1)

rating (NAR) of +41. She received an NAR of +28 in May.

Ms Macapagal registered gains in approval across all classes and those in Class ABC gave her the highest approval rating, a +55, an increase of 14 percentage points compared to May.

But it was among the poor, those in Class E, where she posted the largest gain: 23 percentage points. She got an NAR of +49 in June, compared to a +17 in May.

Those in Class D gave her an NAR of +41, up from the +29 she got in May.

Malacañang was happy with the survey, saying it indicated that the President's pro-poor projects were "paying off and were being appreciated by the recipients."

The President scored big in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

In Mindanao, she got an NAR of +36, an increase of 33 percentage points. In Metro Manila, she got an NAR of +41, or an increase of 30 percentage points.

Bad news

The bad news was that Ms Macapagal's net approval rating in the Visayas decreased by 8 percentage points, from +49 in May to +41 in June.

The survey had 1,200 respondents nationwide and had a confidence level of 95 percent and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent for findings reported at the national level and plus or minus 6 percent at the regional level.

The survey showed that if you asked Filipinos if they thought the quality of life of their countrymen had improved compared to last year, they would say that it had either deteriorated or was the same as before. And they also believed that things did not look bright for their fellow Filipinos in the immediate future.

The survey said 43 percent of Filipinos believed that the quality of life of their countrymen was worse now than last year. Another 43 percent said it was the same as before.

Only 15 percent said it was better now.

But the survey showed that Filipinos are less severe in their reading of their own quality of life: 46 percent said their own lives were the same now as last year, 34 percent said it was worse now, and 20 percent said it was better.

This resulted to a net gainer (percentage of those whose lives were better minus percentage of those whose lives were worse) of –14.

Yet if one were to compare the results of the June survey with that in December, there were more Filipinos who felt an improvement in their own lives. And they were also more optimistic when asked about their own quality of life in the next 12 months.

Last December, the net gainers was –30, last June this was down to –14.

When the June survey respondents were asked to assess their expected quality of life next year, 44 percent said it would likely be the same as this year, 37 percent said it would be better than now, and 18 percent said it would be worse. This resulted to a net optimist (percentage of those whose lives will be better minus those whose lives will be worse) of +19.

This is an improvement in outlook, compared to the figures last December where there was a net optimist of –3.

Urgent personal concerns

The most urgent personal concerns of Filipinos today are how to avoid illness and stay healthy, finishing one's schooling or providing education for their children, and having a secure or well-paying job or source of income.

The most urgent national concerns are economic recovery, poverty of many Filipinos, peace and high prices of basic necessities.

As for the President's trust rating, Pulse Asia noted that it remained lowest in Mindanao and the poorest Class E. (She had a net trust rating of +30.)

Mindanao and the poorest Class E registered highest trust ratings for ousted President Joseph Estrada, who got a net trust rating nationwide of –3.

There was a "fairly good level of public support" to the country's highest officials, the survey said.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. had a net approval rating of +26, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel had +46, ex-Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. had +19 and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had +49.

Widow seeks NBI quiz . . .

(From page A1)

The remains of Ilusorio, 88, were cremated last Thursday, the day he died.

Three days before he passed away, Ilusorio was "already very weak," Erlinda said.

She said that on June 25, Potenciano was with their son, Maximo, at the house of Enrique Yap in Ibaan, Batangas. Enrique is the former husband of Sylvia Ilusorio, one of the late businessman's daughters.

Erlinda asked the NBI to help find answers to the following questions:

"Why was (Ilusorio) kept in Batangas? Was he ever brought to any hospital for treatment from the time he was separated from (Erlinda) in May 1998 up to the time of his death?

"Why was he brought to San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City if he had died in Batangas? Why was no post-mortem or autopsy made despite their being mandatory in cases where the cause of death is undetermined?

"Why are there conflicting statements and reports as to the time of death? Why did Manila Memorial Park allow the cremation without the knowledge and consent of the surviving spouse?

"Why was Ilusorio cremated without an autopsy? Was there a need for an immediate cremation? Why was Erlinda informed about her husband's death only after the cremation?"

Wycoco has said the NBI was not considering foul play in Ilusorio's death.

Request for documents

Erlinda's lawyer, Manuel Singson, also wrote "Sister Evidente," president of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, asking for "information or documents" on the circumstances and cause of Ilusorio's death.

Singson said Erlinda's representative was given a certified copy of the clinical abstract but was not allowed to get certified copies of the entries in the log books that would have shown who had brought Ilusorio to the hospital and who had claimed his remains.

The representative was told that he would need a court order to obtain certified copies of the documents.

Ilusorio's death has left unresolved a bitter family feud that has found its way to the Supreme Court.

On one side, Erlinda and three of her children—Marietta, Shereen and Ramon—are pitted against her three other estranged children—Sylvia, Maximo and Ma. Erlinda "Lin" Ilusorio-Bildner—who took care of Potenciano until he died.

Potenciano and Erlinda were married for almost 60 years, but reportedly started living apart as early as 1972 because he had allegedly taken a mistress.

'Normal marriage'

Yesterday, Marietta clarified that her parents were not "voluntarily separated for 27 years."

In a letter to the INQUIRER, she claimed "they were forcibly separated by (her sisters) Lin and Sylvia in May 1998 against their mutual wishes."

To support her contention, she referred to certain sections of her mother's book, "On the Edge of Heaven."

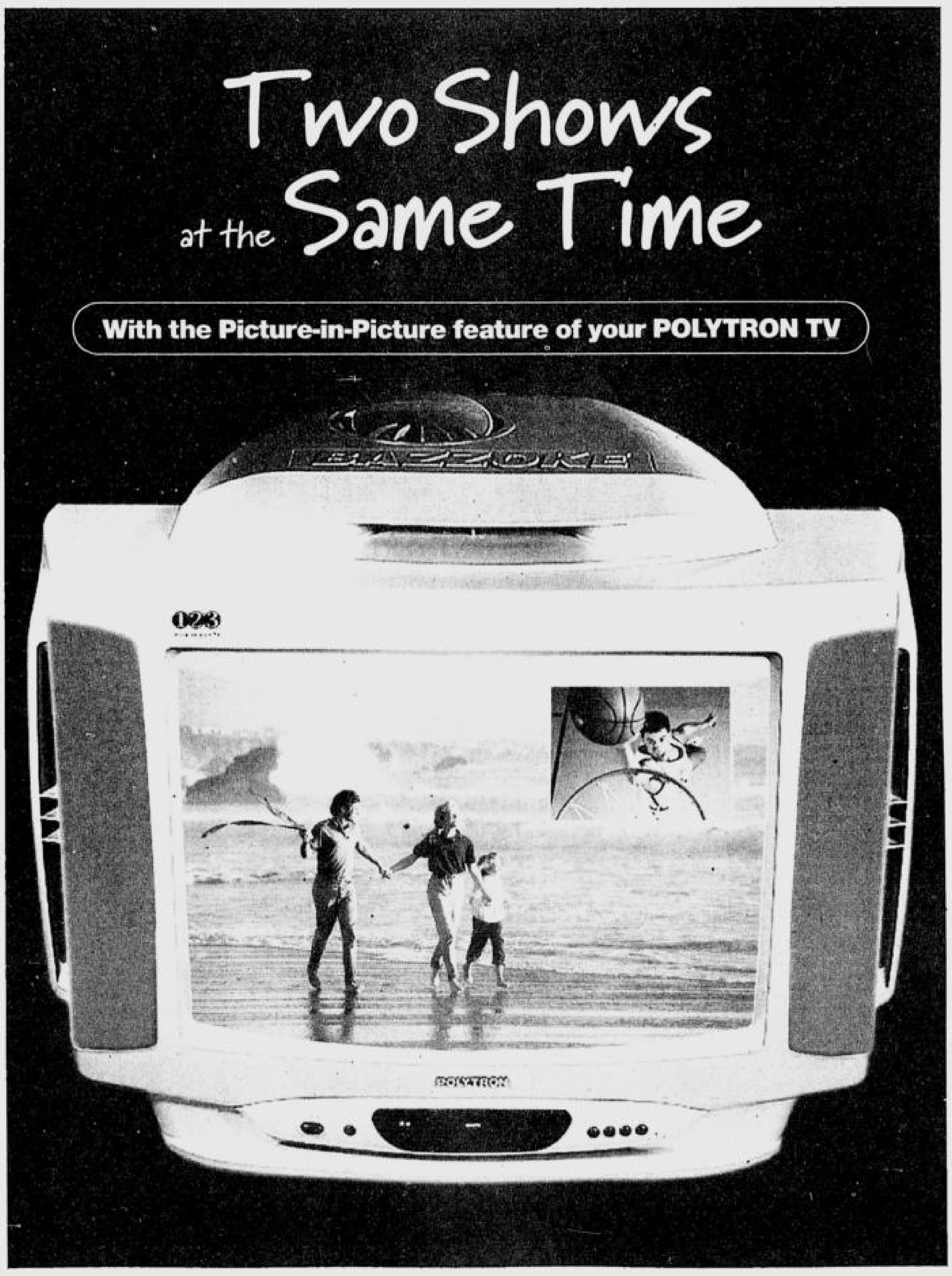
She said her mother had "quoted verbatim my father's actual testimony in court where he himself stated that he and my mother had lived together for more than 50 years, had a normal marriage with the usual differences and that he loved her and wanted to live with her."

Marietta said these excerpts were also available in the transcript of records filed in the Court of Appeals.

"During the last five years, my father became increasingly frail, almost blind and could barely talk. He was not able to read or write for the last 20 years. He had been diagnosed by American and Philippine doctors as having Alzheimer's (disease) for the last five years," Marietta said.

She said an INQUIRER report saying that the late businessman, a close associate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, had "filed a case against my mother nine days before he died is a sign that he was not in complete control of his senses."

She reasoned that "conflicting letters demanded that (my mother) drop all the cases and yet he obviously unwittingly filed this court complaint."



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Ginebra	3	3
Pop Cola	3	4
Mobiline	2	4
Tanduay	2	4
Shell	1	6

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
5:15 p.m. — Tanduay vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m. — Ginebra vs Pop Cola

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AFTER Shell bowed out, Tanduay Gold and Mobiline are hard-pressed not to follow suit when they clash today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Both tied in the lower rungs of the standings and just a notch better than the ousted Turbochargers, the Rhummasters and the Phone Pals are in a frantic rush to catch the last ticket to the eight-team quarterfinals.

Although at 2-4, they still have enough chance of making it if other teams lose their next games, a defeat here would nonetheless dim their prospects for the next round.

It would be particularly damaging for Mobiline, which despite the re-emergence of Asi Taulava, has lost its last three games. In fact, the comebacking Fil-Am has not won a game after his return to the fold.

And speaking of comebacks, Tanduay continues to hope Fil-Am Eric Menk can resurrect his PBA career as an import. However, Menk and coach Derrick Pumaren are both hesitant over the idea for different reasons.

Menk maintained that he's here to play as a Filipino, while Pumaren is convinced that Tanduay import Kevin Freeman is starting to show his mettle the past few games.

If Menk, whose appeal with the Department of Justice is still pending, could play today, it would be an exciting reunion between him and Taulava, whose celebrated match-up used to dominate the league two years ago.

"I can play anytime because, unlike Asi, I'm in top shape," Menk told the INQUIRER. "But I'm happy for him that he's back."

Menk, who makes it a point to watch Tanduay play and even joins team practice, jokingly added that: "Maybe I can also get the services of his lawyers. That would be a good idea."

Barangay Ginebra can also make a dash to a Final Four slot when it takes on Pop Cola in the second game.

The Gin Kings are doing very well with a 3-3 record, thanks to import Jerald Honeycutt, whose talent and experience make up for his team's internal wrangling.

Thunder turnaround

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ENTRY of Batang Red Bull into the Philippine Basketball Association promised nothing lofty. In fact when the team joined the PBA two years ago, coach Yeng Guiao has had some misgivings about its chances in the tough professional league.

First, it lost 6-foot-9 center Marlou Aquino to Sta. Lucia by the quirk of the PBA offer sheet and, much later, 6-foot-6 Kerby Raymundo who was suspended for one year due to a technicality.

"I'm not expecting a miracle to happen overnight," said Guiao in an interview. "I know the task is tough, but I'm pretty sure that the players will not become profound disappointment to their fans."

Yeng Guiao was right, of course.

Overcoming tremendous odds, the no-quit Thunder last year finished a surprising third in the season-ending Governor's Cup after a listless start in the All-Filipino and Commissioner's Cup. As a result, the team is no longer taken for granted, looming large as a strong bet to make the Final Four in the ongoing Commissioner's Cup.

"There's chemistry now among the players," Guiao told this writer. "The players are more focused on their game; they're showing newfound zeal and intensity, not to mention that they're committing less mistakes and improving their shooting."

On Sunday, Batang Red Bull takes on rejuvenated Sta. Lucia Realty, needing to win by at least five points to gain an outright twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinal round. Although a close game is expected, many still pick the Thunder to prevail chiefly because the team has the requisite gifts—teamwork, height, speed, shooting and an awesome defense.

The Thunder's peppery Jimwell Torion, the 5-foot-9 point guard from Cebu; and deadly Fil-Am Mick Pennisi, the 6-foot-9 defensive gem who played for Eastern Michigan University, are back in harness, recovering from career-threatening injuries. While old reliables Davonn Harp, the hardworking Fil-Am from Ohio who was voted the league's 2000 Rookie of the Year; Ajo Agustin, the pride of Pampanga and one-time MVP and fearless Junthy Valenzuela are blending well with Kerby Raymundo, Rowell Briones and No. 1 draftee Willie Miller. Not to forget that American import, Antonio Lang, is doing good as well in his role as a silent but effective operator, a natural leader who provides the mature judgment at the crucial moments.

"The players know each other better now and they play as a team," said proud franchise owner George Chua. "They have proven that they could do more than simply win games. They could also win friends because they play to please the public."

***

SPORTS TRIVIA. Yugoslavia finally won the World Basketball Championship in May 1970. After finishing 10th and last in the inaugural staging of the world cagefest in Buenos Aires in November 1950, the Yugos gradually inched closer to the top, winning the silver medal in 1963 and 1967.

In 1970, the world championship was held at the Yugos' homecourt in Ljubljana, with all continents and areas of the globe participating. Yugoslavia, inspired by a highly partisan crowd, won the title, losing only once, 72-87, to the Soviet Union. The Yugos annexed the crown by chalking a better win-loss record, finishing at 5-1 in the final round. The Soviet Union finished at 4-2, losing to Brazil (64-66) and the United States (72-75). On the other hand, Brazil, which also tallied a 4-2 slate, copped the silver because it beat the Soviets in the final round. The Brazilians suffered their only losses to Yugoslavia (55-80) and lightly-regarded Czechoslovakia (71-72). While the US wound up in a tie with Italy at 3-3.

***

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-267284.

Agassi-Rafter semifinal set

Ivanisevic meets Henman

AGASSI returns a shot to Escude. AP

WIMBLEDON, England—Andre Agassi overcame a slow start Wednesday and earned a Wimbledon semifinal berth against Patrick Rafter for the third consecutive year.

The difference this time is that Pete Sampras won't be waiting to play the winner.

Second-seeded Agassi, the only American quarterfinalist, advanced with a 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over 24th-seeded Nicolas Escude. Rafter, seeded third, beat 10th-seeded Thomas Enqvist 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Goran Ivanisevic, a three-time runner-up who got into the tournament as a wild-card entry, advanced with a 7-6 (2) 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3) upset of fourth-seeded Marat Safin. Ivanisevic will play sixth-seeded Tim Henman, who beat 15th-seeded Roger Federer, 7-5, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 7-6 (6)

Sampras had won seven of the last eight Wimbledon titles and four in a row before losing in the fourth round to Federer, a 19-year-old Swiss.

Henman, who lost to Sampras in the 1998 and 1999 semifinals, is trying to become the first British man to win Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936.

In 1999, Rafter lost to Agassi in the semifinals. Last year, he beat Agassi in the semis. Both times, Sampras won the tournament.

A more ancient rematch could loom in the finals. Agassi beat Ivanisevic for the 1992 championship.

But in his first set Wednesday, Agassi was in trouble.

"I was returning well but not quite serving well," he said. "I didn't find a rhythm on my serve. The wind was blowing hard."

He started serving better in the second set but knew he couldn't underestimate the player who beat fifth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt and ninth-seeded Sebastien Grosjean in his previous two matches.

"He's a very dangerous player," Agassi said. "He hits the ball very early. He's fast. He likes to move very explosively to the ball and he's not scared to take chances" *AP*

Cagayan hosts tennis

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Junior netters once more display their prowess against the best of north and south Mindanao when the Nazareth Tennis Club hosts the second leg of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 on July 7-9.

Featured age groups in the Adidas netfest organized by the PSA and Scoop awardee Children's Tennis Workshop are the junior men's and women's 21-under, the boys' and girls' 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

10 teams joining Utilco soccer meet

TEN teams vie for honors in the 1st Utilco invitational football tournament starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday (July 8) at the Philippine Army grounds in Fort Bonifacio.

These are San Beda College, Army, Philippine Navy, Air Force, PCU Dasmariñas, PCU Taft Kaya Football Club, College of St. Benilde, Far Eastern University and University of Asia and Pacific.

Four games will kick off the tourney. It will be Army against Air Force at 9 a.m., FEU against PCU Dasmariñas at 11, San Beda against Kaya at 1 p.m. and Navy against UA&P at 3 o'clock. According to tournamnet director Capt. Armel F. Fernandez and Commissioner Hans Smit, the tourney is being staged by Utilco International Trading Co. in cooperation with the Army Football Club. It is sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

Army, Air Force and Navy are three of the top soccer teams in the land. Made up mostly of national advancing to the crossover semifinals. The semifinal winners will dispute the title.

Navy, Kaya, PCU Taft, San Beda and UA&P are in Group I, while the rest are in Group B.

Other tourney officials are Jerry Ngo, deputy commissioner/chair of Disciplinary Committee; Tomas B. Saluria, chair of Referee's Committee/general coordinator; Saeid Nikpassand, secretary/table official; M/Sgt. Jose B. Baron Jr., venue manager; S/Sgt/ Racelo Saluria. Referees' inspector; Cpl. Tyrone Montes, liaison; and Col. Jose Mabanta Jr., PA public affairs chief.

MBA GAMES

Knights, Slashers gun for 7-2 cards

By Roy Luarca

STANDINGS	W	L
Andok's San Juan	6	2
Negros	6	2
LBC Batangas	4	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	3
FedEx Laguna	3	3
Nueva Ecija	2	3
Socsargen	1	6
Davao	1	7

GAMES TODAY *Tinga Gym (Taguig)*
3:00 p.m.—Negros vs Nueva Ecija
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Socsargen

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights are on a streak, while the Negros Slashers are back on track.

They will stake their lofty positions against separate opponents today in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

The Knights tangle with the Socsargen Marlins at 5:30 p.m., following the Slashers-Nueva Ecija Patriots tussle at 3 p.m.

Both carrying 6-win, 2-loss cards, the reigning national titlist Knights and the Southern Conference champion Slashers need at least two more wins to advance to the next round.

And with their edge in firepower they should be able to do just that against the lowly Marlins and the Patriots, who are reeling from a 111-100 beating from the FedEx Laguna Lakers Wednesday night.

The Knights, in fact, handily handed the Marlins their sixth straight defeat, 114-90, in their first encounter in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Though the Marlins finally scored their breakthrough win at the expense of the Davao Eagles, 101-85, last Sunday, the Knights are entirely different customers.

The Knights of coach Philip Cezar have won four in a row through the efforts of Bruce Dacia, Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez, Chito Victolero, Danny Capobres, Gilbert Castillo and Randy Alcantara.

If Raffi Reavis has fully recovered from back spasms, then all the more the Knights would be hard to beat.

Altas loom as dark horse

The lineup: 6'0 April John Alejandro, 6'4 Joseph Martin Patrick Borjal, 6'3 Anthony Cosme, 5'10 Ronald Allan Hawkins, 6'1 Raffy Ibrahim, 6'2 Jason Jensen, 6'4 Gilbert Malabanan, 5'10 Roderick Ko, 5'10 Mohamed Yusseef Paglas, 5'10 James Guiazon, 6'3 Julius Isaac Romulo, 6'0 Mark Tayer, 6'3 Chester Tolomia, 6'4 Marcel Cuenco.

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual. Help-Rizal could be considered as a dark horse with half of the team composed of rookies. But that won't stop the Altas from making a strong bid for the crown in the 77th NCAA basketball season kicking off July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Head coach Bay Cristobal lost five of his reliables—Arnel Mañalac, Milo Bonifacio, Dale Villena, Al-rashid Aming and last year's MVP Jojo Manalo.

But he still has Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan who'll play as heart and soul of the team along with seven talented new recruits—6'4 Joseph Martin Patrick Borjal, 6'4 Marcel Cuenco, pointguard James Quiazon, 6'3 Julius Isaac Romulo, April John Alejandro, Mark Tayer and Roland Allan Hawkins, brother of PBA superstar Rene Hawkins.

Completing the team are veterans Raffy Ibrahim, Jason Jensen and sophomores Roderick Ko, Mohamed Yusseef Paglas and Anthony Cosme.

The Altas have been practicing twice a day during the past four weeks. Cristobal cited both Tolomia and Malabanan for providing the rookies "a push in spirit and intensity".

"We will have a team building in Pampanga this weekend, and hopefully things will be better before the opening. *Hindi naman masamang matalo* as long as you gave your best. We'll take it a step at a time, but definitely we'll give other teams a tough fight," he further added.

NU Bulldogs in fighting form

FOUR seasons ago, National University was a team reeling from the loss of its two brightest stars with no one left to pass the torch to.

That was when Manny Dandan joined the coaching staff and recruited promising rookies and put the Bulldogs into the thick of things in the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines seniors basketball tournament.

"These guys were not your usual superstars when they came in. But they were role players who worked hard every day to get where they are now," said Dandan, a former UP Maroon who offered to help NU four years ago just after the school struggled with the defection of Danny Ildefonso and Lordy Tugade to the pros.

Left with no other choice, Dandan and the entire NU staff rebuilt the team.

"*Ito na yung* last chance *namin* to make a statement. We really want to make the most out of it. Next year, the core will be graduating already and it will be time to rebuild again. So *ito na yung huling* push *para sa* batch *na ito*," explained Dandan.

Jeff Napa, Alfie Grijaldo, Archen Cayabyab, Chico Manabat, Gilbert Neo and Ariel de Castro will form the core of the Bulldogs, who Dandan added could have as many as four rookies this season.

Ildefonso; Bolado and Tugade gave their alma mater a big boost when they started joining the NU practices once a week.

"They find time to help the school. Once a week, we are able to set a schedule for them to join and that's a big help *kasi nga* during scrimmages we are able to simulate playing against big men like Danny Ildefonso and Cris Bolado," Dandan said.

San Agustin 5 shocks St. John Institute

BACOLOD CITY—Colegio de San Agustin-Bacolod upset St. John Institute, 7-5, Saturday in the final of the Bacolod leg of the Nike 3-on-3 basketball championships.

Not given a chance against the taller and heftier Falcons, the Eaglets broke a 3-all deadlock with three straight points to take a 6-3 lead with two minutes remaining. The Eaglets used speed and hustle to neutralize the Falcons' height advantage; but still needed a break to pull off the victory.

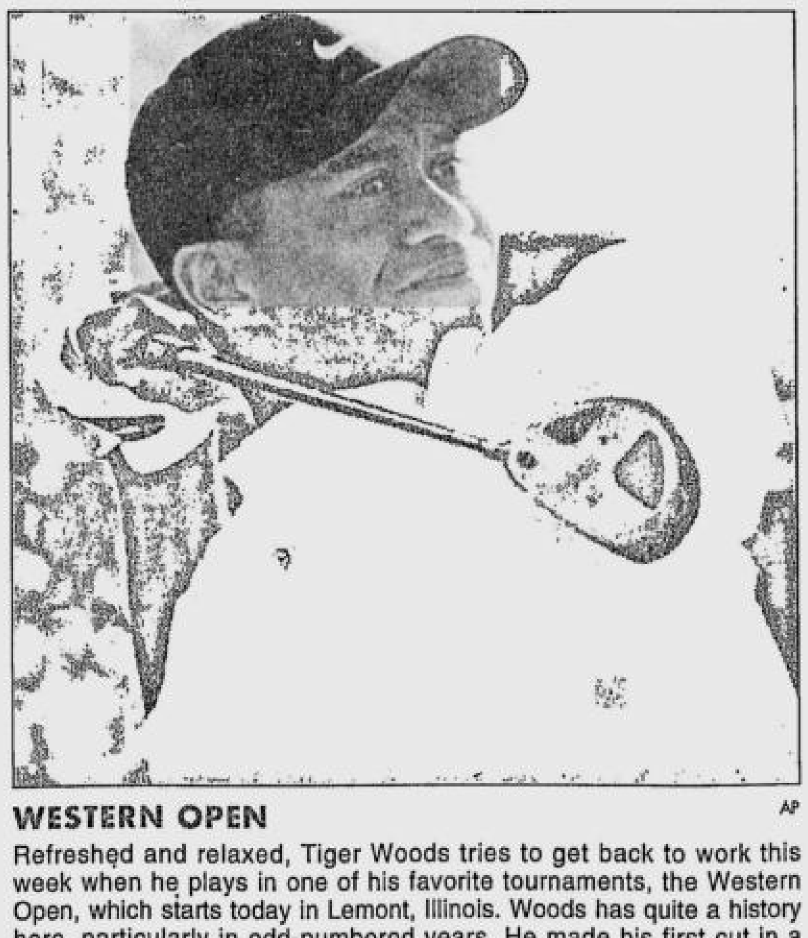
With the Eaglets up, 6-5, the Falcons had a chance to send the game into overtime, but Robert June Genovea missed an easy lay-up with 10 seconds left. The Eaglets regained ball possession and pegged the final score on John Marin Chavez's basket.

CSAB coach Melvin Baclay said he thought that they have a good chance of winning following their impressive 11-8 win over Bacolod City National High School in the semifinals.

"I just told them to play their game and always fight for the ball. I'm glad they delivered even beyond my expectations," Baclay said.

The Falcons reached the final by edging Cansilayan High School, 14-13.

Cebu City hosts the next leg of Nike 3 on 3 on July 14.



AP

WESTERN OPEN

Refreshed and relaxed, Tiger Woods tries to get back to work this week when he plays in one of his favorite tournaments, the Western Open, which starts today in Lemont, Illinois. Woods has quite a history here, particularly in odd-numbered years. He made his first cut in a PGA Tour event here in 1995 and then won the tournament in 1997 and 1999. He also broke 70 as a pro for the first time in the fourth round in 1995.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Intunda 2. May's Magic 3. Woman's Task/Sunny View 4. Ocean Friend

Race 2—1. Heart of Gold 2. Respect the Ace 3. Exceptional Charm

Race 3—1. Dear Elane 2. Rosa Valentina 3. Golden Quest 4. Speed Charm

Race 4—1. Ebony Star 2. Brenda Star 3. Santa Fe 4. Win More

Race 5—1. Nuts Again 2. Call to Action 3. Pep Talk

Race 6—1. Gifted Angel 2. Hot Number 3. Rose and Toy 4. D Contractor

Race 7—1. Noble House 2. Traktora 3. Denon 4. Gracious Heart

Race 8—1. Ringer Kid 2. Golden Tale 3. Triggerman

Race 9—1. Charisma 2. Red Bells 3. Free Entrance 4. Pride of Mandaue

Goosen still awaits paycheck

STRAFFAN, Ireland—His US Open title is in the bag, but Retief Goosen is still waiting for the check.

The surprise South African winner of last month's major said Wednesday he still had not been paid.

"They are hanging on to it a little longer. I expect it will appear any day now," he said.

Goosen, whose victory over Mark Brooks in a Monday playoff earned him $900,000 in his first major victory, is in Ireland for this week's European Open at The K Club, southwest of Dublin.

He looked back Wednesday at the memorable events at Southern Hills in Tulsa, where he missed a 2-1/2-foot putt to win on the final regulation hole, then made a 3-footer to get into the 18-hole playoff which he won the next day by two shots over Brooks.

"I haven't thought about the 3-putt as much as everyone else seems to have thought about it," Goosen said. "It was just another 3-putt. All right, it was to win the US Open but if it had happened on the 17th it wouldn't have been so bad.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: LPGA Shoprite Classic, Final Round at 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open Highlights at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Second Round tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Advil Western Open, First Round tomorrow at 3 a.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Wimbledon Day 10 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 10 - Ladies Singles Semi Finals at 10 a.m. (r), Day 11 - Men's Singles Semifinals at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Purefoods Scoop guest today

THE PUREFOODS Hotdogs will be featured in today's Scoop sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant along West Avenue, Quezon City. Also appearing in the 10:30 a.m. forum are ABA founder Chot Reyes and MBA referee Darrel Garretson. Scoop president Beth Celis urges all Scoop members to attend.

RP boxer seeks finals slot in Bangkok

BANGKOK—Reigning SEA Games champion Juanito Magliquian tries to save Team Caltex Philippines from a gold-medal shutout as he goes for a finals berth today in the 24th King's Cup International Amateur Boxing Championship here.

Magliquian won the pinweight title in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games but is now fighting in the light-flyweight class. He is already assured of the bronze medal after upsetting local hero Kaew Pongprayoon Tuesday night.

"I'm really proud of Juanito, who is proving that he can win in the heavier division," said ABAP president Manny Lopez in an overseas call to head coach Orlando Tacuyan. "I'll pray for his victory."

Magliquian emerges as the last man standing for Team Caltex Philippines after Vincent Palicte and Roel Laguna absorbed stinging losses Wednesday.

Palicte bowed to a Russian on points, 9-13, in their flyweight quarterfinals bout, while Laguna suffered the same fate against a Pakistani in the featherweight division.

"I'm really sorry, Sir," Tacuyan told Lopez.

Lack of experience told heavily on Palicte, who failed to crack the Russian's solid defense. But assistant coach Robert Jalnaiz fumed over the loss of Laguna, alleging his ward got the raw end of officiating.

Four other members of the team—Alex Pedroso, Esmael Bacongon, Marcial Chavez and Julito Paller—lost in the preliminaries.

The team is supported by Power Caltex Phils., Pacific Asphalt Mix, Pacific Heights and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Korean bids for IOC post

SEOUL, South Korea—Kim Un-yong, one of the leading contenders for the IOC presidency, boasts one personal record: In his 70 years, he has never lost an election. Among friends and the media, it earned him the nickname, "Invincible in the Orient." *AP*

Yao, Del Rosario top Jet Sports races

SUBIC—Veteran Off-shore rider Perry Yao and defending champion Paul del Rosario shared honors in the recent Off-Shore Enduro Race of the 2001 JSAP Jet Sports Series at the Waterfront beach here.

Yao showed his mastery of enduro races as he smoothly negotiated the course, passing through the El Grande Island to emerge first overall in this event sponsored by Petron Corp. and supported by WG&A Super Ferry.

Ben Sun Que checked in second while French Bon Dominic and newcomer Glen Castillo finished third and fourth, respectively.

Del Rosario, after topping the Expert Runabout 1200 Superstock, came in second overall over tough rivals Wacky del Rosario and Carlo Baltao.

Sharing the limelight are Roland Aguila and new rider Peter Nolasco.

Aguila, also a veteran off-shore rider, dominated six laps to rule the seniors executive class.

The second leg of the JSAP Jetsports Series will be held on July 21-22 in Subic. Call Beth Francisco at 633-1661 to 62, Dong Arcilla at 721-8007 or JSAP president Joey Montelino at 843-5839 for details.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Wednesday's Games

Boston 13, Cleveland 4
Detroit 6, Kansas City 4
Oakland 2, Anaheim 0
N.Y. Yankees 4, Baltimore 3
Toronto 8, Tampa Bay 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 3
Texas 6, Seattle 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets 2, Chicago Cubs 1
Pittsburgh 14, Cincinnati 3
Arizona 3, Houston 2
Montreal 9, Florida 6
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 1
St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 2
San Diego 8, Colorado 3
Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 3

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Abu's 'dirty tricks' team captured A24

Another jail inmate dies A24

NZ's most wanted nabbed in Manila

BY JEROME ANING

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday arrested New Zealand's "most wanted fugitive" who escaped from a maximum security jail eight years ago while serving time for drug trafficking.

Agents of the NBI's Interpol Division caught up with Brian James Curtis at his hideout on Mercurio Street, San Andres Bukid, Manila.

Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz said Curtis was sentenced to 18 years in prison for importing heroin in New Zealand.

NZ'S MOST/ A24

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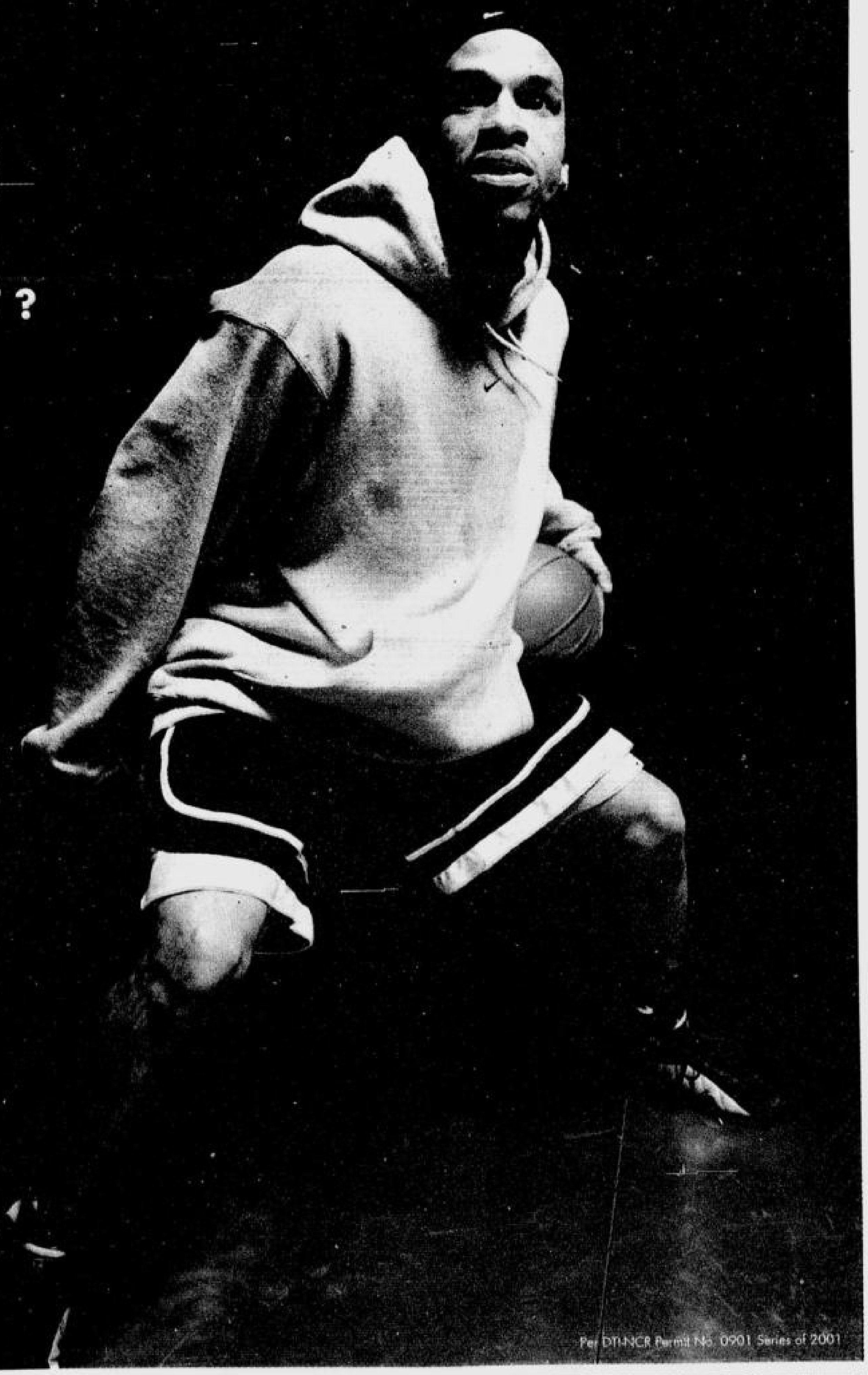

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Man gets bullets for breakfast

DANNY M. ENOPIA, 21, did not finish his breakfast yesterday. Two unidentified men shot him in the back with a homemade shotgun (*sumpak*) while he was eating at a Quezon City eatery.

Enopia, of 28 Katuwnan Extension, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City died where he sat in the eatery near his home before dawn yesterday, said SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation unit.

Enopia was having breakfast at the eatery on 25 Kalayaan B Street about 3:30 a.m. yesterday when the suspects sneaked up from behind him, opened fire on the unsuspecting Enopia then fled on foot, Pedronan said.

Enopia was identified by his father. His remains were later taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, Pedronan said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Another jail inmate dies

By Jerome Aning

THE DEATH of Manila City Jail prisoner Isabelo Cruzat on Wednesday night brought to 10 the number of inmates who have died this year while in detention.

Cruzat was 52 and had been detained for almost a year for drug pushing. He died after complaining of shortness of breath.

But police are still waiting for results of an autopsy on Cruzat to determine if he died by natural causes or by poisoning.

SPO2 Danilo Vidad of the city police's homicide section said that Cruzat fainted at Cell No. 2 about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Other inmates brought him to the jail's infirmary.

When Cruzat showed no sign of recovery, jail officials ordered his transfer to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Cruzat was arrested on June 8, 1999 and jailed after being charged with violation of Section 15 of Republic Act 6425, also known as the Dangerous Drugs Act.

His body was later transferred to the Sanctuary Funeral Morgue. Police are coordinating with jail authorities to determine if there was foul play in Cruzat's death.

Abu's 'dirty tricks team' captured

By Dave M. Veridiano

THREE suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf group—said to be part of its "dirty tricks department" in Metro Manila—were arrested on Wednesday in their safe house in Malate, Manila.

Yesterday, Interior and Local Governments secretary Joey Lina Jr. presented the suspects to the media. He identified them as Mumar Lueza Asanin, 40, his wife Juring Manjarum Asanin, and Nuhman Dompol Asanin.

The suspects are believed to be responsible for fabricating fake travel documents for Abu Sayyaf leaders and members who want to go abroad. They are also said to be involved in pushing drugs to finance their illegal activities.

A combined team of agents from the PNP-Intelligence Group (IG) and the Army intelligence unit arrested on Wednesday the suspects during an operation at their safe house at Abella compound, Barangay 705, Zone 77, District V., Leveriza, Malate, Manila.

The safe house also doubled as their "office", said Lina.

PNP-IG chief Sr. Supt. Reynaldo Berroya said that the arrest of the three Abu Sayyaf members also led to the discovery of an intricate drug pipeline of the bandits. He said the profits from this illegal trade were apparently being used to buy high-powered firearms for the bandit group's criminal activities.

Lueza-Asanin passed himself off as a lawyer and is the general manager of the Malate-based travel agency Husmida Travel and Transport Corp., Berroya said. He said that the agency is used as front for the fake travel documents.

Government agents raided the suspects' safe house in Malate on the strength of arrest warrants issued by Basilan Regional Trial Court Judge Danilo Bucoy.

Authorities found the suspects with a Baby Armalite rifle; a .45 Thompson automatic rifle; two pieces of rifle grenades, assorted magazines for .45 pistols and M-16 rifles; assorted ammunition and assorted travel documents.

A Toyota Tamaraw FX (PWL 757) and one Kia Besta van (UHW-983) were also seized from the suspects. The suspects apparently used the vehicles transporting shabu to Mindanao and purchasing firearms, authorities said.

Berroya said that the seizure of the travel documents came in the wake of intelligence reports that Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya and his family were planning to flee the country using fake travel documents.

"But so far, verification from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Sabaya nor any of his aliases reported to us, has not been issued a passport," Berroya said.

A press statement also said that local officials form Tipo-Tipo, Basilan have identified the three arrested suspects as the persons responsible in several murder cases and the kidnapping of Christian residents in Basilan.

Berroya also said that the group's drug syndicate pipeline in the metropolis is headed by a certain Salim Idris, a bigtime drug lord and financier of the bandits who maintained at least nine houses in Intramuros, Alabang, Pasay and Quezon City.

A man identified as Hadji Dong is the operations officer of the syndicate and is said to be responsible for the distribution of shabu in Cebu, Zamboanga and Basilan, Berroya said.

He also said Dong is a close aide of Sabaya and Hector Janjalani, brother of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani.

"The suspects were but just a cell of the many Abu Sayyaf fronts in Metro Manila," said Berroya.

Big falsehood about Philippine basketball

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE'S one formula to resuscitate and revitalize Philippine basketball.

First, we have to get rid of the useless politicians in the set-up.

Then, if dedicated, powerful patrons are indeed pushing for meaningful changes in the conduct of the game here, the welfare of horde upon horde of faceless game adherents should be given priority.

We mean here the countless young hopefuls who regularly troop to neighborhood sandlots in a bid to hone their native skills, land in a school team and, at least, earn a free college education.

Forget about the former game icons that had stolen the gullible national imagination, earned millions and, in some cases, even landed saucy political positions.

The call of the moment is for the poor kids to get the most out of their blind bids for future stardom.

It is a fact that eventual success is greater in countries where they are able to put together a sound, systematic, scientific basketball development program.

* * *

As you very well know, we don't have such a system here at home.

Our hottest stars shine mainly on strong, if often fancy, individual skills.

The main thrust in our big leagues is to entertain and sell, never to be at par with the region's best national teams.

In Manila, and everywhere else around the country, MILF and NPA lands included, we also drown in all sorts of basketball tournaments.

The sports calendar is over-filled with basketball events—from the pros, the schools, all the way to the barangays—all year round.

Unfortunately, nothing comes in the form of instructions anchored on the scientific upgrading of skills.

For example, everybody here worships Michael Jordan, but nobody among his disciples takes pains to develop and use the so-called wrong foot in order to excel. Local players obviously believe Air Jordan's secret to success was his very visible lollipop tongue.

The last notable exercise committed by a group of national players was to stage a protest in favor of the quarrelsome head of two feuding amateur basketball factions.

In short, time and efforts are wasted on empty undertakings.

As a result, we continue to be beaten and shamed in big Asian championships, mainly the Asiad where PBA pros have been returning humbled, frustrated since their first outing in Beijing 1990.

* * *

Well, the Chinese, with their awesome ceiling, have indeed loomed unbeatable in the Asian arena.

Year after year, our top national stars have appeared content watching the Chinese masters rule the floor.

In the first place, we've never heard of any native effort at research.

There has never been a move to correct and upgrade the outdated local style of play.

In the meantime, there's a frantic race to solve the BAP leadership problem that has led to the banning of the Philippines from international meets under the Fiba.

We were told the other day by a reliable source that the raging feud between Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal was actually a proxy war.

Noted sports columnist Joaquin Henson of the Star later confirmed this and pointed to athletics chief Go Teng Kok and Philippine Olympic president Celso Dayrit as the sports politicians fueling the feud from behind the scene.

* * *

Time is, of course, running out.

It's a pity because, given some modern components to upgrade their game, some of our gifted, if hopelessly individualistic, players could again scale the heights and try to again challenge powerhouses China and Korea.

Take the case of Ginebra's Mark Caguioa. Do you think the current boy wonder of the PBA could have made an impact here if he did not move to California where he never tired of picking up sharp game basics?

Anyway, it's altogether odd that sports officials appear in a mad dash to resolve the BAP leadership fiasco in time for the naming of a national team to the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

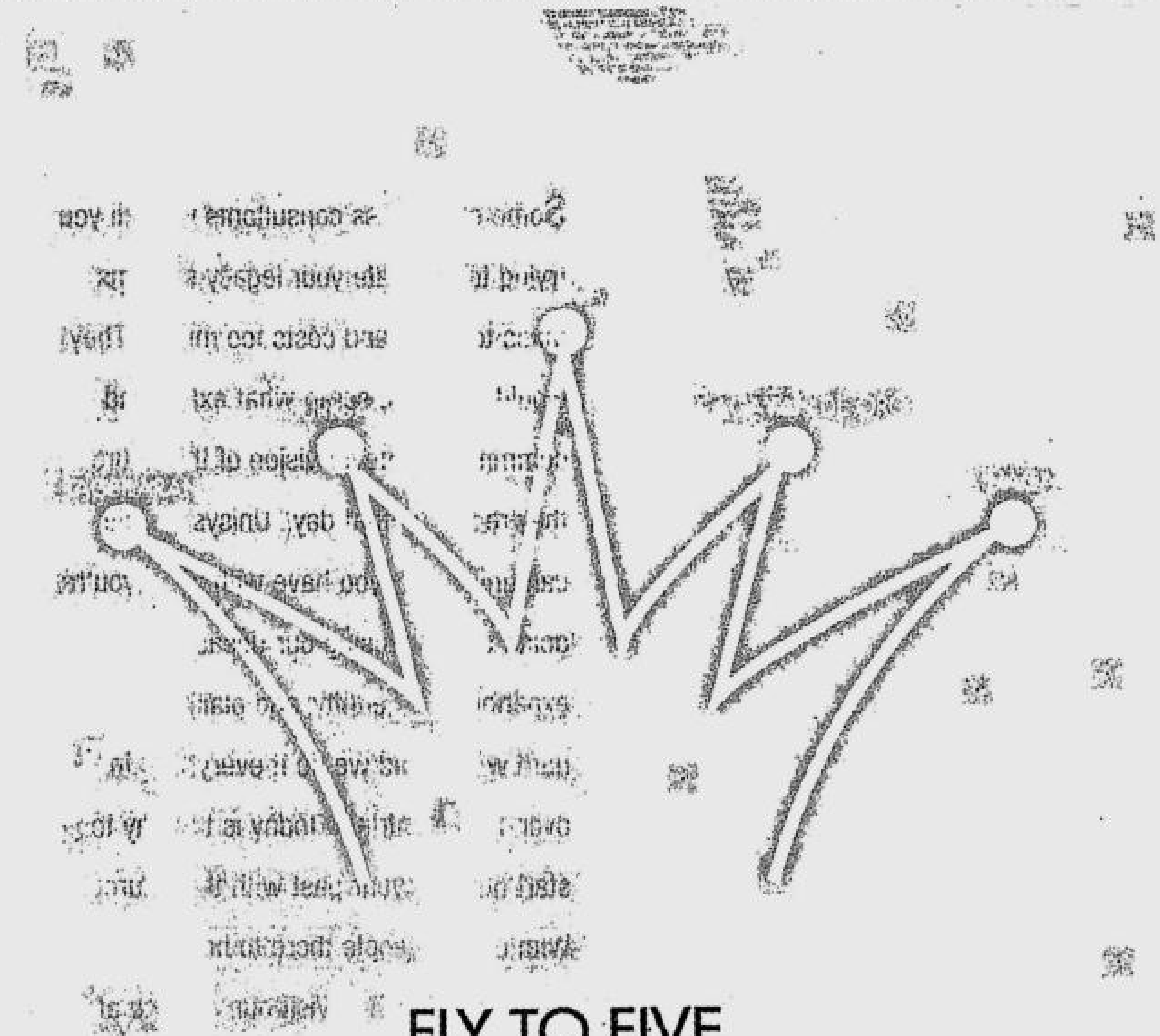
In truth though, competing in the SEA Games is nothing more than a tired picnic for the Philippine national basketball team that used to be regarded as Asia's finest.

All told, the call of the moment is for the abolition of the BAP which, as you can very well see, has long surpassed its uselessness.

Under the BAP, the Filipino has been lulled into believing that basketball is the game that we truly know and play best.

That's not true.

NZ's most wanted nabbed in Manila



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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

(From page A23)

In 1993, Curtis bolted the maximum security prison in Auckland, becoming the third prisoner in New Zealand's history to have done so.

The suspect then went into hiding in various countries using an Irish passport under the name "Peter Coutts."

In using a fake passport to enter the country, Curtis violated Philippine immigration laws, which would allow the government to deport him, said Andrea Domingo, Bureau of Immigration commissioner.

The Philippines and New Zealand do not have an extradition treaty.

Diaz said Curtis is also wanted for assault, theft, burglary and conspiracy to import heroin in New Zealand.

The New Zealand police had been on Curtis' trail since 1993. The fugitive has been the subject of an Interpol "Red Notice," alerting police agencies worldwide of his escape. *With AFP*

Homecoming

TO CELEBRATE its 25th anniversary, the University of the Philippines Los Baños Com Arts Society will have a grand homecoming for all its alumni on July 14, beginning at 10 a.m., at the UPLB Social Garden.

With the theme "25 & Up," the only academic organization for students of UPLB's AB Communication Arts program will welcome home all its past members in a whole day of fun, bonding, and prizes.

All members of the UPLB Com Arts Society from 1976 to 2001 (regular, honorary, associate members and residents) are invited to attend. There will be a fee of P500, which can be deposited at any BPI branch under account No. 0065-3149-83 (account name Ronald Allan Victorino and Ma. Cecilia Royo). Alumni abroad can send their contribution via Western Union to Allan or Maricel.

Committee to look for alternative site for Manila college

By Jerome Aning

THE MEHAN Garden has a new lease on life.

A committee composed of representatives of the Manila city government and various groups opposed to the construction of the City College of Manila at the Mehan Garden will be formed and its task is to look for alternative sites for the new college.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez, his two undersecretaries and the department's National Capital Region director brokered the deal in a four-hour meeting with the project's supporters and opponents at the DENR-Region 4 office on Roxas Boulevard in Ermita.

The committee, which includes architects from the city government, the National Historical Institute and the Heritage Conservation Society, is given a week to look for an alternative site.

Among the places being considered are the Ramon Avanceña High School in San Miguel and the old Ateneo de Manila compound in Intramuros.

Heated arguments, catcalls and personal outbursts from both parties interrupted the meeting, forcing Alvarez to intervene.

The opposing parties also reached an agreement that the Mehan Garden was indeed a historical site.

NHI executive director Pablo Trillana III blasted the City Hall for not asking for permission to construct on the site, which he said the NHI declared historical back in 1934. Before applying for an environmental compliance certificate from the DENR, a construction company should secure other necessary permits from other agencies, such as the NHI and the National Museum.

Manila City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod single-handedly fought criticism of the construction. He stressed the urgent need for a new campus for the 6,000 CCM students, who are from the urban poor.

He said the CCM campus, the old Philippine National Bank building on Escolta in Sta. Cruz, is a "potential fire trap." He said the only free place the City Hall could find then was Mehan Garden.

He expressed fears that the NHI seemed to have been vested with the "police-like powers" and could dictate to local governments what they could and could not do with available spaces in their jurisdiction.

Trillana III and HCS president Augusto Villalon branded as "inconsistent" the City Hall's reason that the campus would preserve and enhance the historical value and significance of the Mehan as an educational and socio-cultural center.

"I can't see how a building could enhance and preserve the historical and cultural value of the Mehan," the NHI director said. "It can only be done so as a public park, which is its original purpose."

Villalon, an INQUIRER columnist, accused the city of being only after the school building. He argued that many residents could be informally educated about the city's history and culture if the garden were preserved.

Navotas squatters evacuated

By Christian V. Esguerra

MORE than 50 families yesterday were evacuated from a Navotas slum area when heavy rains brought on by typhoon Feria lashed most of Northern Manila, submerging some 40 barangays there since Wednesday.

No one was reported injured.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports suspended elementary and high school classes as early as 5:30 a.m. yesterday when floodwater began to rise in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela.

But hundreds of commuters were still stranded in heavily flooded parts of Northern Manila.

In Navotas, local officials evacuated 44 families living near the Manila Bay in Navotas West and Sipac.

Ten families were moved to a daycare center in Navotas West while the rest were transferred to the Bagumbayan Elementary School in Sipac.

Navotas barangays Tanza, Daang Hari, San Jose, Almasan, Navotas West, and Sipac were in waist-deep of water.

No vehicle could pass through the town's main road, M. Naval Street, and a portion of Lapu-Lapu Avenue.

In nearby Malabon, many families were moved from Barangay Panghulo where floodwater reportedly rose from four to six feet.

Local officials said 90 percent of the flood-prone city were underwater.

Among the flooded streets were Gov. Pascual Avenue, C. Arellano Street, Gen. Luna Street, and F. Sevilla Boulevard.

In Valenzuela, 14 barangays mostly in the first district were flooded.

These were barangays Isla, Palasan, Bisig, Coloong I and II, Polo, Tagalag, Balangkas, Pasolo, Mabolo, Wawang Polo, Villa Pariancillo, Poblacion, and Marulas.

MMDA: No more shopping malls along busy thoroughfares

By Nelson F. Flores

IF THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority had its way, malls would no longer be constructed along major thoroughfares to prevent the worsening of the traffic problem in Metro Manila.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said recent experiences showed that the presence of malls along busy streets aggravates the already slow moving traffic in Metro Manila, especially during rush hours.

This development came after the MMDA announced its plan to go after bus and taxi companies with illegal terminals in the metropolis.

In an earlier interview, Abalos cited specifically the proliferation of buses and taxis without terminals in Metro Manila as among the major causes of traffic congestion. He said these bus and taxi firms appropriate valuable street space that could have otherwise been utilized by vehicular traffic.

Abalos said he issued a memorandum to all traffic enforcers directing them to cite all public utility drivers who would illegally park their bus and taxis. He said the driver's licenses of those who would be cited would be suspended for three months.

Abalos also said he would ask the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board to revoke the operating permits of all bus and taxi companies that would violate the prohibition against illegal terminals. He said there is a standing MMDA directive against illegal terminals.

Abalos added that MMDA traffic enforcers would soon prevent provincial buses from entering the City of Manila. But he clarified that only the bus firms without terminals will be banned.

"We are going to implement that city ordinance that prohibits buses without terminals from entering the historic city. That ordinance was enacted during the incumbency of former mayor Alfredo Lim," Abalos said.

Abalos explained that the ban would be implemented as soon as the city government of Manila issued a guideline.

Double death for rapist

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MALABON judge handed down a double death sentence to an auto mechanic who raped his stepdaughter, then 14 years old, twice in 1998.

Judge Benjamin Antonio also ordered the immediate transfer of convicted rapist Absolon Yonto, 39, to the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa and directed him to pay the victim P250,000 in damages.

On June 13 and July 19, 1998, Yonto raped his stepdaughter in a shanty in Barangay Catmon which he and the girl shared with other relatives, while the victim's mother was working in Taiwan, court records showed.

The girl tried to fight off her stepfather's sexual advances each time, but Yonto threatened to kill her with a jungle bolo pointed at her neck.

The father also threatened the victim not to report the incidents, investigation showed.

To make sure, Yonto also kept a close watch on the victim whenever she talked to her relatives. But the girl managed to tell her aunt in December 1998.

The aunt immediately accompanied the victim to the Malabon Police Headquarters and filed a formal complaint against Yonto. Despite overwhelming evidence against him, the father still denied the charges and said he was working in Quezon City when the incidents took place.

He claimed the victim's relatives fabricated the charges allegedly to enable her mother to marry another man.

But Judge Antonio did not buy Yonto's "weak" alibi, and believed in the victim's "credible and straightforward" testimony.

3 men and a 'cop' hijack truckload of rice

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOUR armed robbers, one of them said to be in police uniform, struck at a busy Quezon City intersection early morning Wednesday and stole a truckload of rice—including the truck.

Leonilo R. Robles, 37, of Phase 3 Delta, Dela Paz, Antipolo City, told police that he and his helper, Rommel Calbitasa, had just loaded 110 sacks of milled rice worth P93,500 in Bocaue, Bulacan and were supposed to deliver them to Antipolo City when they were held up in Quezon City.

Robles and Calbitasa are employees of MJ Poultry Supply and Rice Dealer of Phase 3-A Bagong Nayon II, Antipolo City, said SPO3 Diosdado Pedronan, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

As Robles was driving a maroon Isuzu Elf truck (WER-762) on the southbound lane of Edsa, the suspects onboard a Starex van suddenly blocked his path near the corner of Quezon Avenue shortly after midnight Wednesday, Pedronan said.

Three armed robbers stepped out of the van and asked for the delivery truck's papers and receipts for the rice, Robles told police.

The robber in police uniform then ordered Robles and Calbitasa to get into the Starex van while he took the wheel of the delivery truck, SPO3 Pedronan said.

Robles told police the two vehicles drove south until they reached Sampaguita, San Pedro, Laguna. There the suspects stopped on the roadside and ordered the two victims to get out.

JV won't take Jinggoy's old post in league

By Agnes E. Donato

EVEN IF San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito admitted that he wants to follow his father's footsteps to the presidency, he is not keen on taking over the posts left by his jailed half-brother Jinggoy Estrada.

Ejercito said he would pass up on the presidency of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, which was held by Jinggoy when their father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, was still in Malacañang.

Ejercito is the son of the former president by ex-starlet Guia Gomez while Jinggoy is Estrada's son by former First Lady and now Senator Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

The new San Juan mayor admitted that he would not be effective as leader of the league since he is not part of the administration.

"You can only be an effective leader if you are part of the administration," Ejercito said. "Let's just give it to those who are on the side of the national government."

Ejercito took his oath as San Juan mayor twice—the first time on Saturday at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where his father and his brother Jinggoy were detained for plunder charges.

In another oathtaking rite at the San Juan municipal hall on Monday, some P270 million in municipal funds from the previous administration was handed the new mayor.

Ejercito said the money turned over to him was a decent amount, but he claimed that it might not be enough to cover all the projects and programs he was planning to institute.

"The annual budget of San Juan is about P350 million. But hopefully, the national administration would be kind enough to extend assistance, so we could accomplish some projects," Ejercito said.

"Anyway, I won't be the one benefiting from those projects, but the people," he added.

Parañaque asks NBI to probe City Hall fire

By Alcuin Papa

PARAÑAQUE City Mayor Joey Marquez has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to step in and investigate the fire that hit city hall recently after fire investigators discovered that four bombs were used to set off the blaze.

Marquez on Tuesday also blamed his political opponents for planting the bombs and starting the fire.

"My political enemies could have orchestrated that incident," Marquez said. "There seems to be no other motive (for the bombing) except politics."

Marquez believed that "persons with a military background" or those who have access to military ordnance undertook the firebombing of city hall.

Many believed that Marquez was referring to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez who graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The two had a bitter feud going just before the elections when Golez emerged as Marquez's most likely rival for the mayoral seat. But Golez accepted the Cabinet post when it was offered to him by President Macapagal Arroyo and withdrew his plans of running for mayor.

Instead, Golez's son ran as Parañaque congressman but lost to Ed Zialcita, a former city councilor and a known supporter of Marquez.

But Golez was quick to deny the charge that he had something to do with the bombs planted in city hall.

"Maybe it is Marquez instead who should be investigated for his responsibility in preventing the fire and the numerous cases he is facing," Golez said in a radio interview.

Golez also pointed out that some of Marquez's bodyguards were also military men.

Arson investigators said four bombs were planted in various offices at the second floor of the city hall building. The offices include the Urban Poor Affairs Office, the offices of the Commission on Audit and some of the councilors' offices.

The bombs went off last Thursday at 6 p.m., about 30 minutes after Marquez left the building.

One bomb was said to have been planted near an exit which Marquez uses when he leaves the office. Probers also discovered traces of shrapnel, which could indicate the bombs were meant to kill and not to cause a fire.

Talks are rife that the bombs were part of a "destabilization" or "assassination" plot against Marquez.

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Martin Onstage as funny as a standup comedy act

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CREATIVITY, wit and a whole lot of music are what make up **Martin Nievera**'s concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt.

If Martin was exceptionally witty that Saturday night we saw him, lucky for us. We couldn't remember how many times we laughed so hard at his jokes and hilarious one-liners. Even his annulment had been reduced to a punchline, and the audience simply lapped it up.

For one moment, we thought we were watching a standup comedy act because the audience was constantly in stitches just listening to Martin's wisecracks.

But knowing Martin in all of his 18 years of performing, there's hardly ever a dull moment in his shows. Whether it's in a formal venue like the Cultural Center of the Philippines or in a huge open-air arena like the Ultra Football Field with 50,000 people, the concert king certainly knows how to hold his audience at the palm of his hand.

Martin at Onstage is no different. Although it was his first time to perform in the venue which was earlier conquered by **Gary Valenciano**, Martin was in his element singing, cracking jokes and poking fun at his audience.

All throughout the show, he was connected with the crowd, not just through the songs he sings but most especially through his wit and humor. The rapport was undeniable. Even the *balikbayans* and the few foreigners in the audience easily warmed up to him, after he asked them to raise their hands. He talks to his audience like they were just there yesterday or they've been his friends for years.

Obviously, Martin didn't need any script. He's one performer who doesn't have to rely on memorized spiels. Martin was glib, funny, spontaneous and impeccably natural.

He opened the show with the ballad "This is the Moment," which he recorded in one of his multi-platinum albums.

"This is the closest thing you can get to seeing me in a movie house," he told his audience. "But without any popcorn."

Onstage is one of the four Greenbelt theaters which was transformed into a live concert venue. The place definitely had no room for pyrotechnics, shower of colorful confetti or a 50-piece orchestra, like Martin's major concerts at the Ultra, Folk Arts Theater or the CCP.

There were only Martin and his music, backed up by an excellent team of session musicians, led by musical director **Louie Ocampo**.

After the opening salvo, Martin readily gave an adrenaline rush by dishing out **Billy Joel**'s bouncy original, "It's Just a Fantasy." Thank God, this is one show without any backup dancers who, for me, only compete for precious and cramped stage space with the performer.

Martin sang a repertoire of medleys galore, starting with Doobie Brothers tunes, **Stevie Wonder** hits, songs of **David Gates** and Bread. He sang practically any song he wanted on the lineup.

It was amusing to hear the very unusual medley of "Sometimes When We Touch," which segued into Backstreet Boys' "Shape of My Heart," complete with Martin doing a **Nick Carter** or **Brian Littrell** of the famous boy band.

Some think doing a medley is easier than singing one number after another. But it's more work for both the singer and his musicians, especially the arranger who brilliantly puts it together. In this show, it's still the genius of Martin's favorite MD, Louie Ocampo.

Martin worked the small stage as if it were his. He tried to dance a la Gary V, but to no avail. Gary is a master when it comes to fancy footwork. Martin even tried to ape his friendly rival by singing Gary's revival hit, "How Can I." The crowd loved it.

But again, this is one Martin show which could not do away with any innuendoes about his former wife, **Pops Fernandez**. In Martin's previous shows, Pops was simply a part of his spiels. At Onstage, the production even went to the extent of spoofing a concert poster of Pops which was juxtaposed with that of Martin's on the huge wide screen. She was seen pointing a gun to his temple. Whatever reaction they wanted to elicit, the audience was amused.

At one point in the concert, Martin went all acoustic with his backup guitarists, **Bobby Taylo** and **Ric Mercado.**

Martin sang more ballads, including Side A's "Forevermore" and "Love Me for What I Am." He did another medley, this time of stirring Tagalog ballads like "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Sana Maulit Muli" and **Aiza Seguerra**'s beautiful hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon" (you ought to hear Martin's version which will surely give you goose bumps).

He also gave in to a few requests sent through text—"Please Don't Ask Me," "What Matters Most," "Before You Say Goodbye" and his favorite **James Ingram** hit, "There's No Easy Way."

NIEVERA. Exceptionally witty.

For more medleys, he sang the hit tunes which he recorded—"Be My Lady," "The Promise," "Say That You Love Me" and "Greatest Love of All" (the theme of the latest **Maricel Soriano** starrer under Star Cinema, "Mila").

The production team of the concert should be lauded for its creativity in presenting the usual trite formats of some parts of the concert, which were turned into a very innovative manner.

For instance, the backup band and singers were introduced in an MTV-like format, while Martin sang "You're My Darling Angel."

We thought Martin has erased from his repertoire the worn-out Broadway medley which we heard him render probably more than a dozen times.

"But if there's one medley that I'd really like to do, this is the one," Martin says. "Anyway this is Makati and I haven't done it here."

Wrong, Martin. When you did the 4th of July special concert at Shangri-La Makati last year, you did the Broadway medley.

But this time, Martin's production team again displayed its artistry and inventiveness by coming up with poster clips of the Broadway musicals.

When Martin sang "All I Ask of You" from "The Phantom of the Opera," fog machines created a labyrinth-like atmosphere, reminiscent of the Phantom's lair. A chandelier was even lowered from the ceiling to complete the stage effects.

His only guest for the night was **Maxine**, the newcomer from Canada who is fast carving a name for herself in the local entertainment scene. They did a duet of the **Ricky Martin-Christina Aguilera** original, "Private Emotion."

For her part, Maxine wowed the crowd with her terpsichorean skills when she dished out Aguilera's "Come on Over." This young lady ought to be given more exposure in the live concert scene so she can really make a name for herself.

There are a few more shows of Martin at Onstage. If you want to have an exceptionally enjoyable weekend, share it with Martin. You definitely won't regret it.

Another Vernal in show biz

LIKE father, like son.

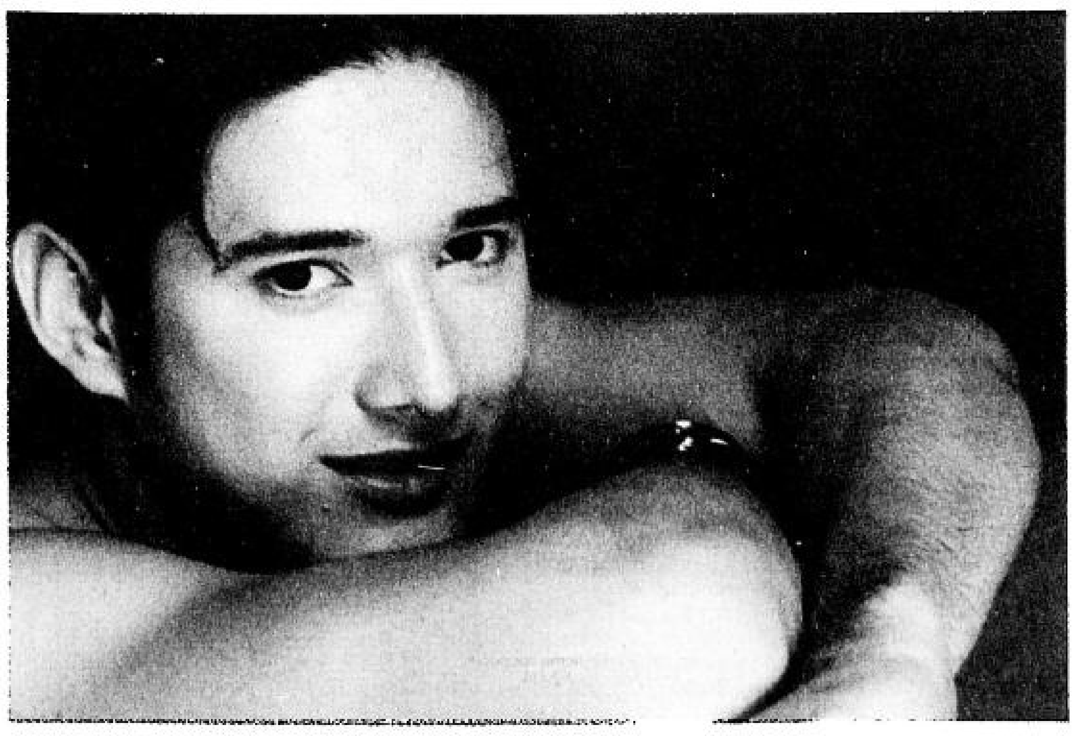
This is true in the case of **Ruel Vernal** and his son, **Kevin John Vernal.**

Ruel, who has made a name for himself as a character actor, has passed on his legacy to his good-looking son, Kevin John, who is now aspiring to make it on his own.

Twenty-year-old Kevin has got the requisites of being a star. Aside from his show biz background, he has the dashing good looks, height and talent to be in the business.

The grandson of former LVN actress **Lourdes Yumul,** Kevin started as a member of ABS-CBN's youth-oriented show, "Ang TV," 10 years ago. He was also a regular cast member of

A GLIB/ A28



VERNAL. Ruel's son has got what it takes to be in show biz.

The evolution of David Duchovny

BY R. V. NEPALES

NAKED TRUTH. On having done nude scenes in some of his early films, Duchovny says, "it's always better to be naked in the beginning of your career, when you're younger.

LOS ANGELES—"It has been pretty steady. I think I'm in the primate stage right now, just about to turn into a huge amoeba with a six-foot anus," deadpans David Duchovny, mentioning a humongous alien in his new movie to describe the evolution of his career thus far.

The star of the hit TV series "X-Files" and the movie "Evolution" is wearing a light blue Banana Republic cotton shirt that makes his eyes, which seem to change from brown to green, stand out.

Deciding to keep the blonde color of his hair that director Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters") insisted for "Evolution," the six-foot-tall Duchovny has been described as a thinking woman's sex symbol but many simply know him as the hunk from "X-Files," period.

Duchovny is a graduate of Princeton University, has a master's degree from Yale University and was a dissertation away from a Ph.D. in English Literature (he never got to finish his thesis, Magic and Technology in Contemporary Poetry and Prose) and yet here he is talking about a movie alien's anus before a group of writers at LA's hip W Hotel.

His Ivy League background makes him an anomaly in Hollywood. He attended classes with the late John Kennedy Jr. at a prep school.

"Like evolution, I've had some dead-ends but that's how evolution happens," he says. "It's a good metaphor because that's how people's lives happen. You try certain things and there are dead-ends but somewhere they made the right way clear. I feel like it has been gradual, natural. I don't feel like fame came all of a sudden (he flicks his fingers).

"I was watching the first episode of 'X-Files' last Sunday. I watched my work, which was really green. I was much stiffer. I needed to learn over those eight years, to hone my craft. If I had been going from movie to movie, trying to audition, I might not have been able to do that. I would have remained the same."

In "X-Files," which was also made into a smash feature film, Duchovny is the brooding FBI agent Fox Mulder dealing with paranormal phenomena. In "Evolution," a big-budgeted special-effects packed comedy a la "Men in Black," he plays a college professor who teams up with Julianne Moore, Sean William Scott and Orlando Jones to battle extraterrestrial organisms that rapidly evolve into a species set on dominating the world.

Big comedy

This send-up of blockbusters such as "Independence Day" and "Men in Black" takes the hip genre of alien-stomping cinema to the extreme.

"That's exactly why I wanted to do it," says Duchovny. "The fact that 'Evolution' is about aliens is a weird coincidence. It didn't really resonate with me personally at first. I felt that 'Return to Me' (with Minnie Driver) was a light romantic comedy. I wanted to try big, crazy comedy.

"Ivan kind of created that whole genre from 'Ghostbusters.' He's the master of the big summer sci-fi comedy. I wanted to work with this guy. The idea of parodying 'X-Files' or even referring to it was so absent from my mind."

Several funny lines and scenes in the movie have a spur-of-the-moment quality, like when Duchovny, standing on a jeep, drops his pants and moons a villain character, an army general, and his staff.

"Unfortunately, I have to claim credit for that," he confirms in his trademark droll style. "When you get in a jeep, you have to stand up and when you do, your ass is right on the windshield. I was doing the scene where I was supposed to be angry and it just clicked.

"Ivan (Reitman) said, 'That's funny but let's try it a few more times,' so I said okay. He said, 'Let's go closer!' I said, 'I don't know how much closer you want to get. I didn't want to keep showing my ass, so I had someone take a Polaroid of my ass and every time I was supposed to moon them, I just showed them the Polaroid."

Shockingly white

Duchovny's reaction on seeing his behind on the screen?

"I thought it was shockingly white. Julianne said the same thing, but I could tell she loved it."

Someone points out that Duchovny has appeared nude in some of his early films.

"Yes, it's always better to be naked in the beginning of your career, when you're younger," he smiles.

Among his pre-"X Files" movies are "Kalifornia" (with Brad Pitt and Juliette Lewis), "The Rapture" (with Mimi Rogers) and "Julia Has Two Lovers."

On cable TV, Duchovny, who is rumored to be a sex addict and denies it, further boosted his sex symbol status when he narrated women's fantasies on "Showtime's The Red Shoe Diaries."

His other work includes the acclaimed "Chaplin" (with Robert Downey Jr. in the title role), the family hit "Beethoven," "Playing God" (with Angelina Jolie) and David Lynch's TV series "Twin Peaks" (where he appeared as a transvestite drug enforcement agent).

One writer asks, "Just how proactive in battle would you be in real life?"

(THE /A27)

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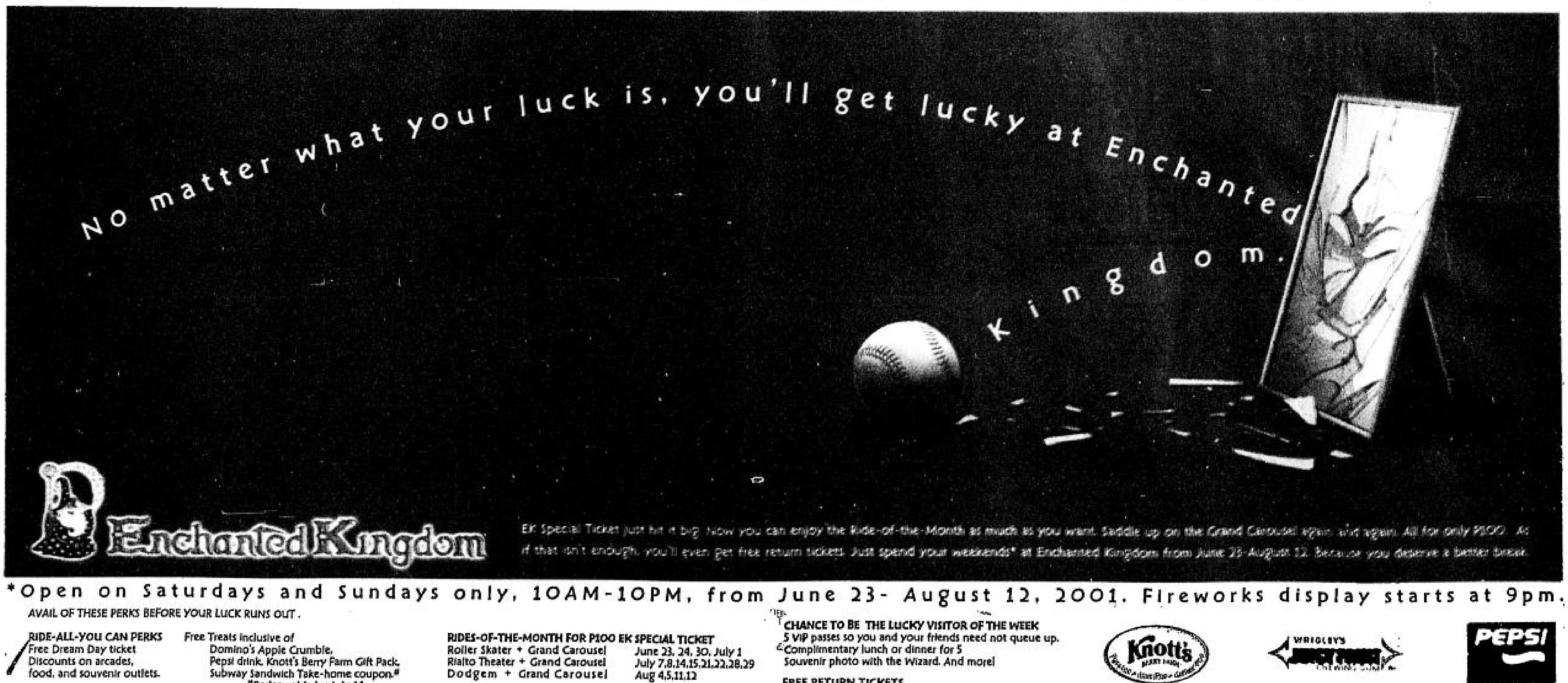

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Martin . .

(From page A26)

He had a brief stint in the movies, too, when he was cast in the **Cesar Montano** starrer, "Asero."

However, since he had to shuttle between Manila and Maryland, where his mom is based, Kevin wasn't able to pursue his career seriously.

"Family problems also hindered me from continuing in show biz at that time," he discloses. "I was also skinny before and I didn't have much confidence in myself, that's probably why I really couldn't go on."

Today, however, Kevin wants to give show biz another try. He is determined to make it this time and wants to carve a niche for himself in the business.

Early this year, Kevin met noted fashion designer **Paul Cabral** when he (Kevin) stood as prom date to **Bong Revilla Jr.**'s younger sister, **Diane**. Since then, Paul has vowed to help Kevin in the latter's career pursuit.

The youngest of two sons of Ruel Vernal and Filipino-Spanish nurse **Maria Bartley**, Kevin likes drama and action, but dabbles in comedy, too. He is now a mainstay of the gag show "Bubble Gang" and a semi-regular on the **Bong Revilla Jr.** sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap." Both shows air on GMA 7, where Kevin is a contract star.

Kevin idolizes **Aga Muhlach** when it comes to drama, **Robin Padilla** in action and **Michael V.** in comedy.

Kevin has proven his mettle in drama when he starred opposite **G Toengi** in an episode of "Larawan."

"I also don't mind getting *contravida* roles," Kevin asserts. "It they would mean my stepping stone for the big time, I will gladly accept the offers."

Although he lives alone with his longtime *yaya*, Kevin gets constant advice from his dad with regard to his show biz career.

The young Vernal is really serious in being an actor so that even his love life is now put on hold. Three years ago, he got romantically involved with young actress **Kristine Hermosa**, although he says it was just a brief relationship.

Lately, Kevin appears to be pursuing charming TV host **Champagne Morales**, although they are far from being an item.

Kevin has many other dreams but foremost of which is to prove himself as a good actor, worthy of continuing the legacy of his father.

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Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP F oundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members.

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Where there's smoke. . .

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVERY once in a while, the local show biz scene is rocked by a rumor involving a major star. It usually starts as a blind item, and is followed by more details that make the identity of the star all too clear, without naming names (but initials are okay)!

This is when several stars are asked if they're the celebrity involved in the scandal, and one by one, they explain why they couldn't possibly be the culprit. Next, the "likely suspect" speaks up to debunk the charge, and there the rumor rests—for awhile.

Then, weeks or months later, succeeding events generally reveal the original rumor to be basically true—whereupon the star involved lamely admits that he's been taking everyone for a ride all this time!

Of course, he explains his lack of candor by stoutly declaring that he lied to protect his loved ones' feelings, etc.

Indeed, on the local entertainment scene, it's often true that where there's smoke, there's fire.

The rumors that later turn out to be based on fact include pregnancy out of wedlock, petty and grand larceny, marriage on the rocks, bitter family feuds, flopping productions and careers, love for sale, and musical chains (and beds) involving at least three celebrity players.

So, when you hear such rumors these days, you can listen to the passionate disavowals of the stars involved, but at least 80 percent of the time, you can expect the reports to be confirmed in the near or distant future.

This is what happened in the case of the star who gave birth to twin love children, the celebrity couple that split up after many years of marriage, the former superstar whose career hit the skids, etc.

And the same confirmation could eventually be made in the case of the teen actress who's rumored to be in the family way, and other currently hot rumors of the week or month.

It's gotten so that members of the entertainment press have learned to take celebrities' denials with a pound of salt. They dutifully report the disavowals ("It's not true!" "We're just good friends!" "His wife and I are the best of friends!" "As God is my witness, I swear—!"), but with their eyebrows flying up to outer space.

So, why do the stars bother to deny rumors involving them if they're going to be found out, anyway? Because they need time for damage control, and because denials lengthen the lifespan of a rumor, thus stretching the publicity mileage they can get, from the usual one week to one month, or longer.

So, the show biz truism, "Where there's smoke, there's fire," is joined in the hip by another cynical motto, "Even bad publicity is publicity—as long as you spell my name right!"

TV treats

AT 8 TONIGHT on Viva Cinema, "Biyaheng Langit" stars **Joyce Jimenez** and **Mark Anthony Fernandez**.

Saturday, July 7 at 7 p.m..on Star Movies, "Mystery Alaska topbills **Russell Crowe, Hank Azaria, Burt Reynolds** and **Lolita Davidovich**. The film is about a small town that rises to face a very big challenge: win a match with the world's most famous hockey team.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, **Antonio Banderas** stars in "The 13th Warrior" with **Diane Venora** and **Omar Sharif**. Banderas plays a man who's banished from his homeland and sent as an emissary to a distant country where he joins Norse warriors in fighting some mysterious and deadly creatures.

At 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Nick's quest: In Search of Polar Bears" follows the huge bears of the Arctic. "Polar Bear Alert" focuses on the bears' habitat. And "Realm of the Great White Bear" chronicles the activities of the polar bears of Svalbard through a season in their Arctic wilderness.

At 8 p.m. on Channel V Int'l., pop rockers Sugar Ray are showcased in "Speakeasy" (replay on Sunday, July 8, at 4 p.m.

At 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Life and Ice" reveals why the polar regions are cold and how they affect the world's weather.

The evolution of David Duchovny

(From page A27)

"Would I go up an alien's anus, is that what you're asking?" Duchovny replies in his typical quick wit. "I don't know. I sleep with a baseball bat by my bed. It changed since I have a baby. I would lay down my life. I'm not the bravest guy. I get scared. People who say they are not scared are lying."

Smell of fear

That baby is Madelaine West, his two-year-old child with his wife, actress Tea Leoni.

Film work will be plenty for Duchovny now that he has quit "X-Files."

"When I watch my movies, I always like to watch my first scenes that we shot. And I think, All the agony, it's nothing! You know when you're afraid, and you smell funny? People say that's why animals attack you because you have that smell. People say, The horses or the lions will smell that fear in you. And I have that fear during the first days on the set of a movie."

One writer asks in earnest, a la Barbara Walters, "Where is that fear coming from?"

"My armpits, basically," the master of deadpan delivery replies. While everyone laughs, he just smiles. But his eyes twinkle as well.

"I didn't mean in the physical sense," clarifies the writer who is just as amused. "Is that coming from your insecurity as an actor?"

"It's from everything," the Jewish half in Duchovny surfaces. He got the Jewish anxiety and introspection from his Russian-Jew father (his mother is Scottish). "It's your mind playing out millions of possibilities."

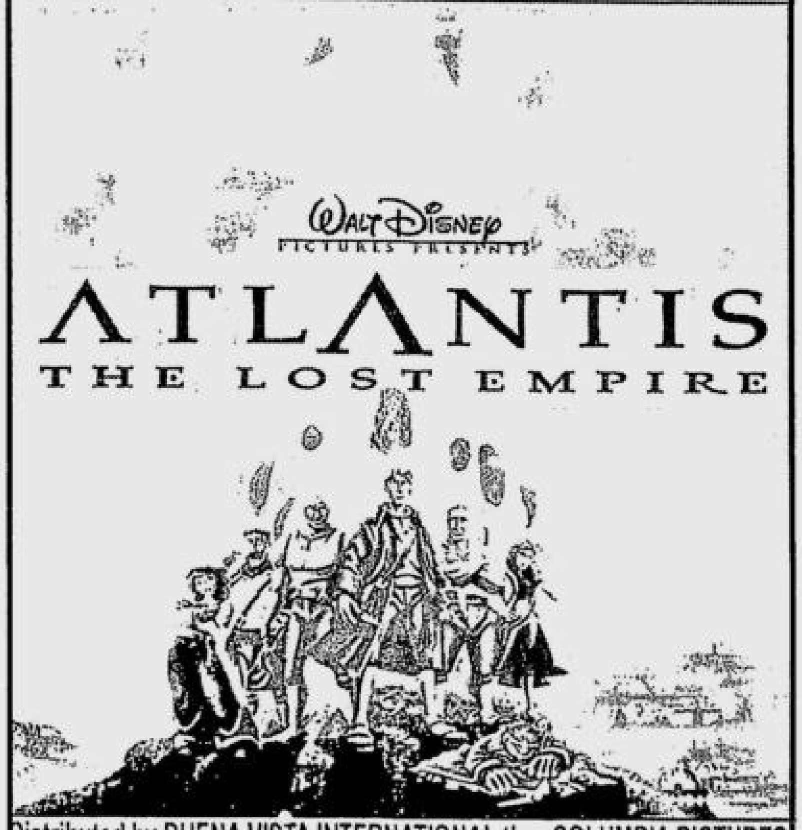
Not for the money

Responding to the statements made by Fox Network execs that he may come back to "The X-Files," despite having finally kissed his partner Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) in the season finale, Duchovny seems firm: "No, I'm not. They're just saying that. It's not about money. I reached the end of my rope creatively as an actor doing the show.

"I made a lot of money on that show. I don't need to make any more money on that show so it's not the money. There's nothing creatively that they can do with the show or the character that would make it fresh or new for me.

"Also, the way I love the show, and the way I'll always love it, is the original show where you got Mulder, Scully and his quest. Mulder is the consciousness of the show because he's the believer. If I were to come back as a cameo, it would feel disrespectful of Mulder. I don't want to ruin the character that way by just showing up like Superman's dad."

What's the next stage in the evolution of David Duchovny? "I've been writing and thinking about directing (he wrote and directed two episodes of 'X-Files'). I've been working hard for eight years and I just have to stop for a minute and figure something out. I don't know what it is. Do I like being blonde? These are things I got to think about."



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TOMB RAIDER - P13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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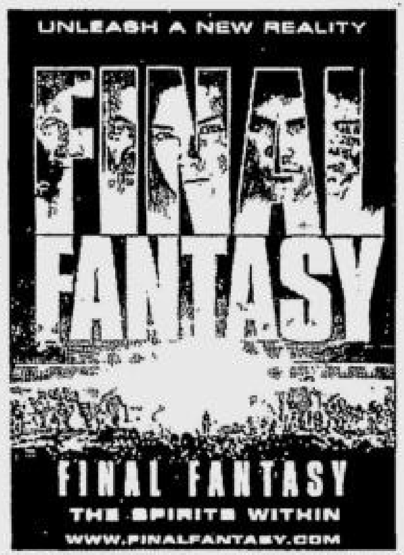

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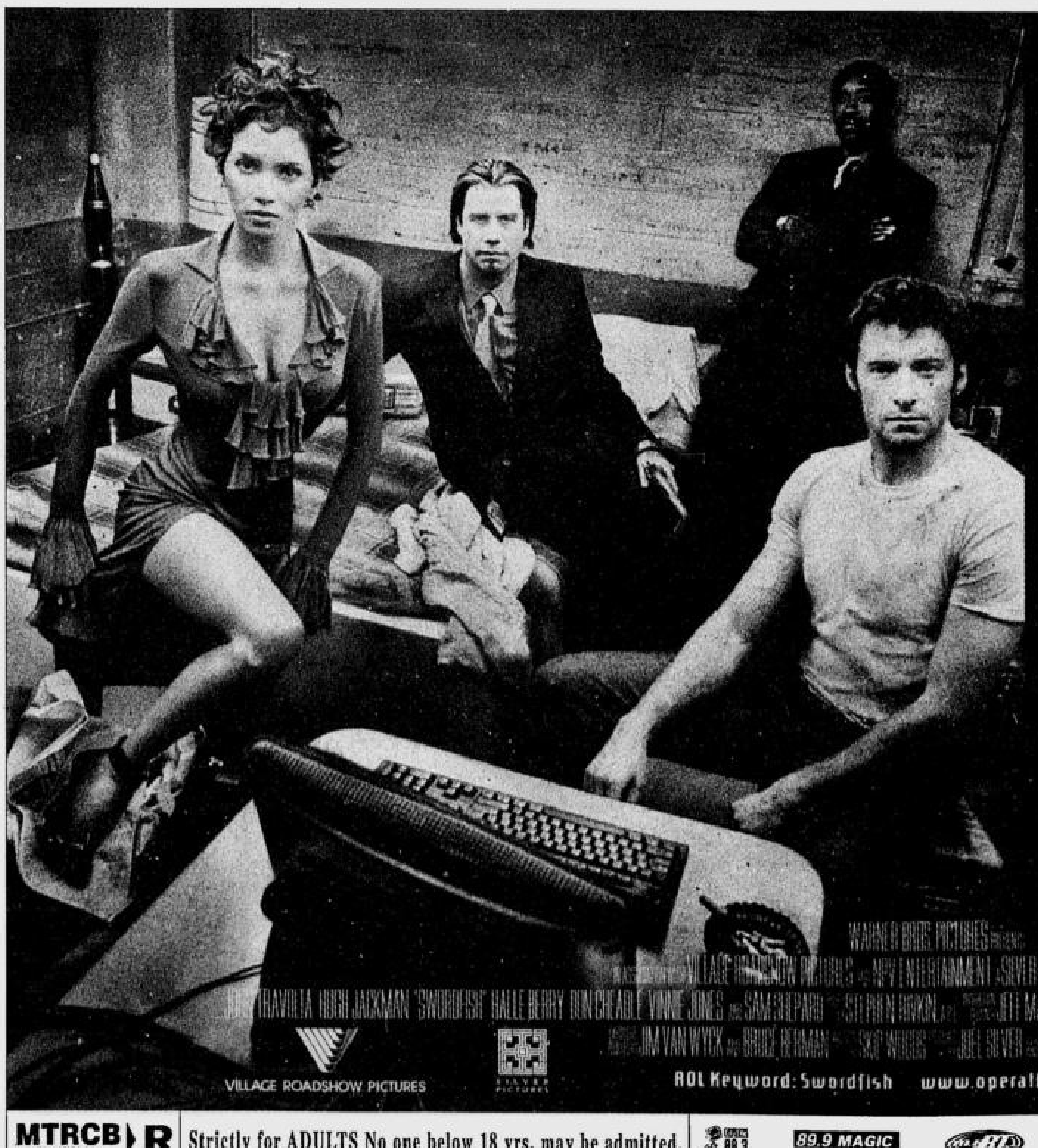

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Why Angelu did not just shut up

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IN six years of hosting one form or another of television talk, I thought I'd heard just about everything. But **Angelu de Leon** managed to not only shock me, she also practically rendered me speechless when she taped an interview with me for my program "Kris and Tell." We aired the first part of her interview Thursday and it culminates today.

We had her on "The Buzz" last Sunday and she bravely admitted on our program that yes, she had gotten pregnant, she had given birth June 2 to another baby girl, she'd left for the United States on Dec. 6, 2000 and kept company with a certain **Edilberto Marcos**, or whatever his true identity may be, until she "escaped" and journeyed home last May.

This is the same guy who made headlines recently in connection with millions, perhaps billions, of dollars that he had allegedly tried to swindle from many individuals wanting to stake their claim on the supposed gold deposits of the Marcoses. He had supposedly claimed to be the illegitimate son of former president Ferdinand Marcos.

If news reports are to be believed, a former PCGG official was purportedly in cahoots with him in the caper. According to Angelu, as she stated in "The Buzz," the FBI arrested Ed Marcos 18 days after she left him in New York.

Not Marcos' daughter

We thought that she'd exploded all her bombshells during that interview, and my follow-up interview on "Kris and Tell" was only meant to clarify some points that weren't related in full detail on "The Buzz."

There was a significant detail Angelu corrected in our taping last Tuesday, because **Boy (Abunda)** and I had logically assumed last Sunday, during our interview, that the father of her second daughter **Loise**, was Ed Marcos. After all, she had started dating him in July 2000 and the baby was conceived in September, a couple of months into their courtship.

Angelu firmly stated that another man, not Edilberto Marcos, fathered her daughter, but she would prefer not to name him. She said that she only recently revealed to him that he was the father, and that was her mistake. She failed to tell him from the onset of her pregnancy.

It took me about two beats to digest this new bit of information. I had to ask Angelu to repeat her statement. I then asked Angelu if Ed Marcos was aware that the baby wasn't his.

Life of luxury

She said that from the start of their relationship she had been honest with him. He was willing to marry her (in Las Vegas, she had said) and he was obsessed with her to the extent that he was willing to accept her for all that she was, regardless of all that she'd been through. He was willing to take on the responsibility of caring for her, her children, her mom, her brother and her sister.

She said his embrace of her entire family was why she had fallen in love with him.

Angelu described a life of unbelievable luxury in the company of Ed Marcos. There were shopping sprees in Gucci and Prada. There was a brand new Benz given to her as a gift. (She said the car has now been returned to its rightful owner since Ed Marcos had failed to complete payment on it.) There was a helicopter ride from New York's JFK airport to a helipad in Manhattan, where she rode a limousine to New York's Peninsula Hotel where she and her whole family resided for more than a month.

I asked her if there was any truth, since it was written about in **Max Soliven**'s column, that Mr. Marcos had in just one shopping spree spent HK$5 million (or roughly the equivalent of P30 million) for and on her.

Going downhill

Again Angelu surprised me with her frankness by saying if she added up the cost of all his gifts, it might reach that sum, but had he given her that amount on one occasion, "'*di sana ibinulsa ko na lang.*"

She related that her life in New York was just like a telenovela, a life "*na pahirap nang pahirap*" where the resources started to dwindle and the lifestyle became less and less affluent—from riding in a chauffeured limousine, then a smaller Lincoln town car, then a yellow New York taxicab, until they had no money left and had to travel on foot; from residing at New York's Peninsula Hotel, to the slightly less expensive Shoreham, to an apartment overlooking the Hudson River.

She said she laid bare her soul because she wanted the speculation to end. People could stop their assumptions and suppositions because here she was telling everything just as it had happened, a first-person account of all that she'd gone through, nothing but the facts.

Some would say that the most prudent course of action for Angelu would've been to just shut up, go on with her life, try to give herself and her family some measure of privacy and bury the memories of her painful and difficult experience. Why open herself up to public censure and humiliation? By adding a new twist to the tale, she feeds the insatiable curiosity of people.

Confronting her ghosts

In a way I understand that Angelu must have wanted to confront her ghosts. Whatever skeletons there were in her closet, she must have come to the conclusion that the fairest telling of her story could only come from her own mouth. By giving us her version, she pre-empted all others that may threaten to come out. By unburdening herself of her past, she has given herself a chance at making something of her future.

Angelu turns 22 on Aug. 22. I feel that in a way she's fortunate to be so young because there's so much of her life left to live. Time is on her side and is giving her the chance to improve upon her past. A second chance, in her case a third, is so much more possible when there are still so many years left to live.

At 21, she has two daughters by two different men. Angelu had the strength to publicly acknowledge this on national TV, to lay herself and her life for the public to judge. Some will be quite unkind with their judgment.

Madonna still in love with hubby after six months of marriage

LONDON—Six months of marriage, and Madonna says she's still in love with Guy Ritchie.

"I feel like he is my equal and that's hard to find. He makes me laugh, he's gorgeous, he's brilliant and we're very much in love," the singer said in an interview published in Heat magazine.

She married the British film director in Scotland in December, and the couple has a home in London. They have a son, Rocco, who will be a year old next month. Madonna also has a 4-year-old daughter, Lourdes, from her relationship with ex-boyfriend Carlos Leon.

"I think a few years ago I wasn't sure what I was on this earth for. I think I was mostly concerned with getting things for myself," she said.

"More clothes, more money, more popularity and more boyfriends.

I wasn't really thinking, I was just doing.

"Then I woke up and said, 'What am I on this earth for?' We are here to love and share," the magazine quoted her as saying.

Garcia-Marquez novel up for auction

MADRID, Spain—Yellow with age and full of last-minute corrections scribbled by the author himself, the galley proofs of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's epic novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude" are headed for the auctioneer's block.

Bidding will start at $490,000 when the pages go up for grabs in Barcelona on Sept. 21, said Subastas Velazquez, the Spanish auction house staging the event.

The 180 sheets of low-quality paper more than three decades old are owned by the heirs of Spanish film director Luis Alcoriza, who befriended Garcia Marquez in Mexico in the 1960s and received the galleys from him as a gift.

In the case of writers, auction houses normally deal with original manuscripts but that of "One Hundred Years of Solitude" was lost years ago.

"These galley proofs are the most primitive version of this book that exist," said Javier Varas, spokesperson for Subastas Velazquez. The auction is also unique in that it involves works by a writer who is still alive.

The pages are large —40 cm by 19 cm— and show the 1,026 changes that Garcia Marquez made in ball point or felt-tipped pen to his 1967 novel.

Considered a prime example of the "magical realism" style that the 73-year-old Colombian writer mastered, the book is a saga about a family called Buendia and a jungle village so remote that people there welcomed ice as an amazing novelty.

Garcia-Marquez, who started out as a journalist, won the Nobel prize for literature in 1982.

Rose garden for Princess Diana

LONDON—British flower enthusiasts are planning to create what they say will be the world's largest rose garden to honor the late Princess Diana, they announced Tuesday.

The two-hectare garden, expected to cost $28 million, will open in 2003 as part of the planned 20-hectare Royal National Rose Garden in St. Albans, a London suburb.

"This will be the people's garden for the people's princess and will be a fitting and lasting tribute to England's rose," said Ken Grapes, director general of the Royal National Rose Society, which is creating the garden.

"It will be a place of peace and tranquillity where people of all ages can remember a much-loved figure," he added.

The princess, killed in a Paris car crash in 1997, would have turned 40 on July 1.

The garden will include sculptures, a tall golden spire and a 15-meter rock from China. It will also include gardens honoring Queen Elizabeth II and the Queen Mother Elizabeth. *AP*

4 bands & a Bud at Padi's Mindave

ASIA Brewery Inc. and Mindave Entertainment Corp. will hold "Budweiser Music & Party Night" at Padi's Mindave at the corner of Mindanao and Congressional avenues in Quezon City tonight.

Four bands will perform from 6 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.-Traffic Jam, M-Code, Simplemen and Elbow Sun. Shapely Budweiser girls will preside over many fun games and give away gifts and prizes. The special event celebrates Fil-American Friendship Day with Budweiser, America's No. 1 biggest-selling beer brand.

On July 15, Padi's Mindave will host the anniversary concert of the multi-awarded South Border band. This will be followed by special shows by Barbie's Cradle of Warner Music on July 24, Rivermaya on Aug. 1 and Freestyle on Aug. 27 and 30.

Padi's Mindave invites non-professional singers to join its "New Singing Star Search" as well as its Sunday afternoon "Mindave Free Children's Art Workshop" project with Germany's Faber-Castell. For inquiries, call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 9253117.

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Consumer prices rose 6.7% in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

A SURGE in food and fuel prices combined with pressures from the peso depreciation and school year opening expenditures to jack up the country's annual inflation rate to 6.7 percent in June from 6.5 percent the previous month.

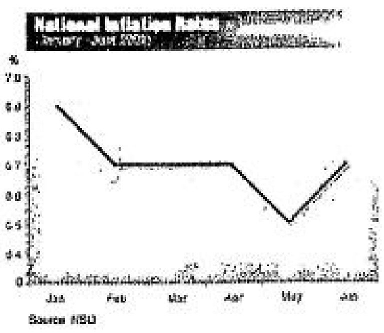
With the continued weakening of the local currency which, in turn, has been causing further oil price increases, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the inflation rate might further rise to 6.8 percent this July.

However, Canlas expressed confidence that given the 6.7-percent average for the first semester, the government's target of 6-7 percent inflation for the year was still be attainable.

"To mitigate the impact of exchange rate volatility, it is important that stable food supplies be ensured," Canlas said.

"Prudent monetary policy, and the improving peace and order situation in Mindanao shall help in stabilizing the exchange rate, and the price of exchange-rate sensitive items in the consumer price index (CPI) basket," he assured.

The peso slid back to the 33 level against the US dollar although it closed slightly stronger at 52.98 yesterday.



Source NSO

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the rise in inflation in June was brought by the year-on-year acceleration in the index for food, beverage and tobacco, housing and repairs and fuel, light and water. In June last year, the annual inflation rate stood much lower at 3.9 percent.

The year-on-year inflation rate for food alone rose to 4.8 percent in June from 3.6 percent in May. Except for rice whose rate remained stable, all other food groups such as corn, cereal preparations, dairy products, eggs, fish, fruits and vegetables and meat registered higher rates.

Month-on-month inflation also surged to 1 percent in June from 0.1 percent in May due to the significant increases in the prices of services and food, particularly fish, meat and dairy products.

Bankers Association of the Philippines chief economist Johnny Noe Ravalo noted that the month-on-month spike in the services sector, whose index rose 2.6 percent, was due to the seasonal opening of classes.

The school year opening had caused the price of education services to grow by 9.6 percent.

He explained that the rise in food prices, on the other hand, had something to do with the start of the rainy season in late June as well as with distribution concerns, such as transportation and warehousing issues. He noted that the uptick could not have been caused by supply bottlenecks given the Department of Agriculture's own assessment of adequate production.

Canlas agreed that typhoons Darna and Emong, in particular, limited the supply of fish and thus pushed fish prices up by 6.2 percent.

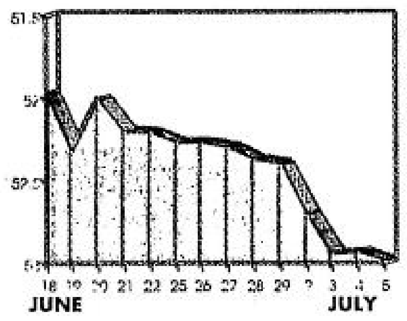
"Given the numbers we're seeing and given the historical trend, July should be the peak and from there, inflation will start to drop. It is possible that it will decelerate to 6 percent by December," Ravalo said.

CONSUMER/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

Peso-Dollar Rate

P52.98 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 5, 2001

¥125.42 = $1
The US dollar was trading
at 124.78 as of 5 p.m.,
July 5, 2001

GOLD:$267.60/268.10
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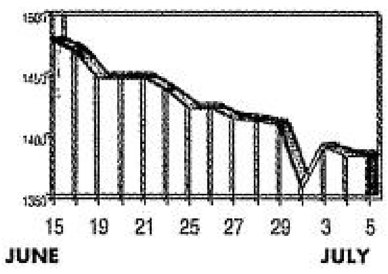
July 5, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up

SHARES closed higher yesterday as investors picked up bargains, propelling the market's main index above its main support of 1400 after 10 straight days of losses, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index jumped 16.24 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1402.23 after declining 6.08 points Wednesday to 1385.99 and by a total 63.46 points, or 4.4 percent, starting June 21.

The broader All Shares Index also rose 2.53 points to 800.96 after 13.98 points to 798.43 Wednesday.

Gainers beat losers 43 to 27, with 38 issues unchanged.

Pacing advancers are blue chips Bank of the Philippine Islands, Benpres Holdings and SM Prime Holdings. BPI gained P2 to close at P74. Benpres rose to 10 centavos to P1.84, while SM Prime advanced 20 centavos to P6.20.

Analysts said the market largely ignored a reported year-on-year rise in June inflation to 6.7 percent from 6.5 percent in May since it was largely expected after the recent weakness of the peso and the increase in oil prices. *AP*

Globe to double cell sites

GLOBE Telecom Inc. aims to double its cell sites to 3,000 by year's end.

Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. told the INQUIRER, Globe was putting up new cell sites to eliminate "hot spots" and increase coverage.

On Monday, Globe signed a P1.2-billion syndicated loan arranged by five banks for its expansion plan.

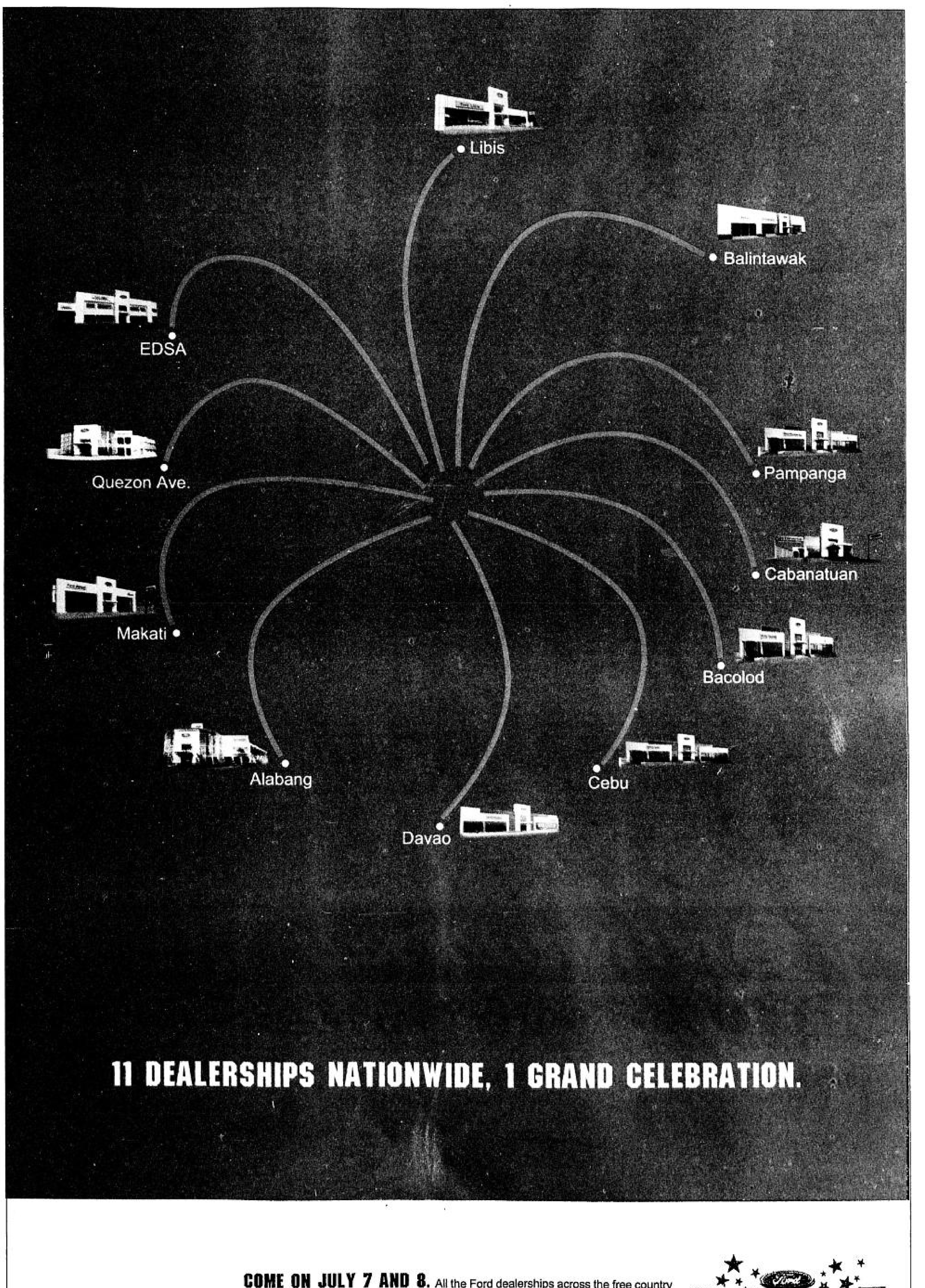
The dollar component of the loan, worth $211 million, will be signed today.

Ablaza said out of Globe's $750-million capital expenditure for the year, $690 million was earmarked for its wireless services.

He said with the completion of Phase 8 of Globe's expansion program, the company would start cutting its capital expenditure.

Globe, meanwhile, announced its full integration with Isla Communications Inc.

"This combination will initially be earnings dilutive, but it will be value accretive in the long run," Ablaza said.



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ASB's unsecured lenders oppose asset pool plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNSECURED creditors of the ASB group of companies are going after the expected proceeds from the planned sale of the group's 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Philippines.

The sale was estimated to generate about P200 million in cash, which the group intends to place in an asset pool to be used to fund the completion of the BSA Twin Towers in Ortigas Center.

In a motion filed with the SEC early this week, 150 of the 700 individual unsecured creditors of ASB Holdings objected to the ASB plan saying the money should be distributed to them.

The creditors said the ASB group should be directed by the SEC to dispose of the DBS shares in the manner provided by the rehabilitation plan, which states that such funds should be made available for payment of unsecured creditors.

On June 21, the ASB group and its owner, property developer Luke Roxas, agreed to sell their combined 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Philippines to the bank's Singaporean parent company, Development Bank of Singapore. The selling price was set at P734.2 million or P95 per share. However, only P200 million will be paid in cash and the rest will be used to offset the ASB group's loans with the Singaporean Bank. ASB Realty Corp. owes DBS $10.47 million while ASB Land has $2.23 million in obligations with the same bank.

The ASB group last June 25 asked the SEC to approve the agreement and to mandate the payment on or before the end of July.

The sale, if approved, is expected to pave the way for the Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second-largest lender, to absorb DBS Bank Philippines.

BPI has said it will pursue a merger with DBS Bank Philippines as soon as the bank resolves ownership issues involving ASB's and Roxas' combined stake.

Singapore's DBS owns 21 percent of BPI, and a merger will allow the foreign bank to raise its stake in BPI to roughly 25 percent, according to a source familiar with the matter.

In its petition dated June 25, ASB asked the Securities and Exchange Commission if it could offset the P734 million in proceeds from the sale of its stake in DBS Bank Philippines against its P449-million debt to DBS.

ASB also asked the commission if it could use P200 million from the sale of its stake in DBS Bank Philippines as an "asset pool" that would allow it to resume construction of the BSA Twin Towers.

DBS cannot acquire ASB's 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Philippines without the SEC's approval.

In April, a three-member hearing panel of the SEC approved ASB's proposed plan to repay over P12 billion in debts.

Two creditor banks, however, asked the commission en banc, its policy-making body, to overturn the hearing panel's decision.

In a statement, meanwhile, ASB said it had signed a memorandum of agreement with Allied Banking Corp. to settle claims amounting to over P1.03 billion.

Under the agreement, ASB Realty Corp. and ASB Development Corp. agreed to release all its rights, titles and interests in certain real properties mortgaged in favor of Allied Bank.

For its part, the bank agreed that, upon completion of the transfer of the mortgaged assets, it would cancel and discharge the first lien over real properties, including several units in the group's condominium projects.

ASB owes some P3.9 billion to over 700 unsecured individual creditors and over P5 billion to various banks, including Allied Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., United Coconut Planters Bank, Equitable PCI Bank Inc., and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

This nation will regret again

THESE are the worst of times. The workers are agitated. The employers are uneasy. The businessmen are wary with the politicians' posturing and callous greed for more power. The Chinese community is in terror due to the worsening rate of kidnappings and robberies. Crime is on the upsurge. Murders, rapes, violence and immoralities are on the rise. The drug menace is still lurking around, posing grave and imminent danger to communities and homes.

The increases in oil prices, water and power rates, tuition and fares coupled with the ballooning house rentals and costs of medical care and medicines—all these exacerbate the sufferings of the masses. Foreign investors can withdraw their investments. Filipinos are migrating to the US, Canada and Australia. The ship of the nation is sinking fast.

Political instability

Instead of helping the President save the country from total collapse, there are insidious forces that seek to undermine the security of the state. The threat of a power grab is not only apparent but is real. The forces of destabilization are allegedly inside the chain of command and are in vantage position to stage a coup.

We cannot rely on the Senators and the Congressmen whose top priority is to covet more power, bickering on committee assignments and can even be so petty as to quarrel over room assignments. The Congressmen are preoccupied with schemes to recover their election expenses and to repay political favors by means of influence peddling and politically motivated appointments and appropriations.

The nation is divided; fragmented may be the more appropriate term. The efforts to heal the wounds are too intermittent and disjointed, and the forces that seek to divide appear to have the upper hand over those who seek to unite us. This kind of situation often hurts the working masses. The rich can just fly to the US.

Worsening poverty and unemployment

There are more poor people today than 10 years ago. There are more squatters, beggars, child prostitutes and out-of-school youths. The unemployment rate is one of the worst since this country started to monitor this economic indicator.

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

The schools turn out too many graduates each year, which the labor market can not absorb. The kind of skills and knowledge produced by our educational system are not what our economy needs. We need good agriculturists to push our agriculture to world-class levels in technology and productivity. We need engineers to build infrastructures for the future as we hope to compete in the global arena. We need computer experts to bring our IT capability to the level of our foreign competitors. What we produce is an excess of lawyers, commerce graduates and physical therapists.

Institutionalized brain drain

We have a DECS and TESDA who don't relate to industry and trade. We have a government that pushes our people to work abroad, make other countries productive and bring home the almighty dollars. We have an institutionalized brain drain, not only abetted by the Dole but also conceived and promoted by POEA and embellished by the broken promises of OWWA.

We send our professional teachers to work as housemaids in Singapore and Hong Kong. We send our college graduates to work as "japayuki" entertainers and macho dancers in Tokyo and Osaka. We send our doctors and nurses to New York and Chicago. And we send our engineers to work as construction workers in Abu Dhabi. And we call them heroes because of their remittances that saved the economy from collapse.

Band aid workers' protection

The reason why we had the likes of Flor Contemplacion, Sarah Balabagan and John Aquino and the thousands of unreported killings, rapes, tortures and the persecution of OCWs is that the government is always too late and too little with their compassion to those whom they call heroes. Their concern is directly proportionate to their budget. OWWA's assistance is mostly for funeral and repatriation expenses. And Congress is not in the mood to fund workers' protection for OCWs because they could not vote anyway and they do not have any value to the politicians.

Even our workers here are not paid the right wages and benefits. They are without job security and are suffering from exploitation and inhuman working conditions. Some unions are just fronts to exact money from both labor and management. The workers don't have real protection.

Labor justice delayed and twisted

The labor dispute settlement systems are graft-ridden. The decision-makers do not have a sense of urgency. Cases submitted for decision years ago are still unresolved. But when Big Business, Big Labor or Big Law Firms are following up, decisions against labor are speedy and expeditious. Where shall the workers go for relief? Even small entrepreneurs are complaining of corruption and gross inefficiency.

No safety nets for the poor

The promises of safety nets as cushions against globalization, privatization and 'contractualization' remain unfulfilled. The government is on a frenzy to privatize—selling Petron to Aramco, water distribution to Ayala and Lopez, and now the SSS is going to be given away. The government sold portion of Fort Bonifacio and at the rate it is going, it may even sell Luneta and Fort Santiago. Who is making money out of all these?

In the meantime, the farmers are still wallowing in poverty, the squatters are still living under the bridges, the teachers are still underpaid and overworked, the policemen and soldiers are still exposed to threats of deaths and starvation. Prostitutes, beggars and robbers still roam in our streets.

If this trend goes on unabated, the peoples' anger may no longer be contained. And this nation will regret again.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: *josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

CURRENCIES

Jul-5-2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.142988	1.000000	53.0250
Japan	Yen	0.009191	0.008041	0.4264
United Kingdom	Pound	1.608870	1.407600	74.6380
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146542	0.128210	6.7983
Switzerland	Franc	0.637117	0.557414	29.5569
Canada	Dollar	0.756795	0.662120	35.1089
Singapore	Dollar	0.627154	0.548697	29.0947
Australia	Dollar	0.587956	0.514403	27.2762
Bahrain	Dinar	3.031959	2.652661	140.6573
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304789	0.266660	14.1396
Brunei	Dollar	0.625677	0.547405	29.0262
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025165	0.022017	1.1675
UAE	Dirham	0.311194	0.272264	14.4368
Korea	Won	0.000886	0.000775	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.874900	46.3916
Germany	Mark	0.496156	0.434087	23.0175
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129429	6.8630
Netherlands	Guilder	0.440346	0.385259	20.4284
Austria	Schilling	0.070521	0.061699	3.2716
Belgium	Franc	0.024055	0.021046	1.1160
Italy	Lire	0.000501	0.000438	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.163210	0.142792	7.5715
Portugal	Escudo	0.004841	0.004235	0.2246
Spain	Peseta	0.005833	0.005103	0.2706
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024055	0.021046	1.1160
Ireland	Punt	1.232150	1.078008	57.1614

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, July 5, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72.5	74	72.5	74	838,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	82,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	206	203	206	56,130
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	5,900
Security Bank Corp.	20	21	20	21	3,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1440	1450	1440	1450	3,010
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1240	1250	1240	1250	20,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	6,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	880,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	26,500,000
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	350,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	715	710	710	90,480
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	31,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	14,700
Manila Electric Co. B	52	53	52	52.5	61,300
Petron Corpo.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	4,044,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.22	1.22	190,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.46	2.48	2,724,000
William Gothong & Aboitiz	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	3,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	760,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	50,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	3,790,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	1,846,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.35	4.4	525,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	363,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	466,500
RFM Corp.	1.72	1.82	1.72	1.82	5,321,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	41	40.5	41	1,413,500
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47.5	46.5	47	142,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	80,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	794,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	465,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,179,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	2,000,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	120,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.74	1.86	1.74	1.84	22,803,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	740,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	560,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	310,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	95,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,730,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,620,000
Ionics Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	120,700
Ipeople Inc. B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.08	2.1	260,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	230,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,390,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	70,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	77,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	70,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	32,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.53	4,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.54	460,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	40	40.5	40	40.5	1,403,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	23,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	670	670	650	650	100
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	25,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.4	2,333,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	9,530,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.22	629,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	830,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	40,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	2,365,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	16,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.049	0.049	0.043	0.043	64,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.047	0.047	0.042	0.042	2,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	30,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.025	0.022	0.024	193,400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	890,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.26	0.2	0.21	140,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	39,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.175	0.15	0.175	310,000

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Exchange cold to planned listing of Itogon shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is not inclined to bend its listing rules if only to pave the way for Philweb.com's planned takeover of the Ortigas family's dormant mining firm Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.

In an interview yesterday, PSE legal counsel Conchitina Gregorio-Panganiban said the bourse was not bound to approve the listing of additional ISMI shares to be subscribed by Philweb, the technology firm of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin, unless the terms of the deal were modified to comply with the limits on price discounts.

Panganiban said ISMI could bring its case to the PSE's listing committee, which is scheduled to meet in three weeks. In the past, she said requests for price discounts by other listed companies were rejected.

Under the PSE's listing rules, publicly listed companies are prohibited from selling shares to a new investor at hefty price discounts so as to prevent the unfair dilution of the stake of other existing shareholders.

When there is a significant demand for shares from existing shareholders, the rule said the PSE should not permit the listing of the shares subscribed from private placement, debt-to-equity conversion, share-for-share or share-for-property swap or similar transaction unless a rights or public offering for shareholders is first undertaken.

Specifically, the PSE said a listed company would not be allowed to offer discounts beyond 10 percent of its average market or book value whichever is higher.

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- **Service With A Touch (SWAT)** Tel. No. 810-0151 loc.334 / 347
- **Universal Service & Technical Center** Tel. Nos. 816-7073 to 75 / 892-7636
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TOWN CENTER

Actual photo of Microtel Inn & Suites

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The Eagle Ridge Town Center. There's no better place to be.

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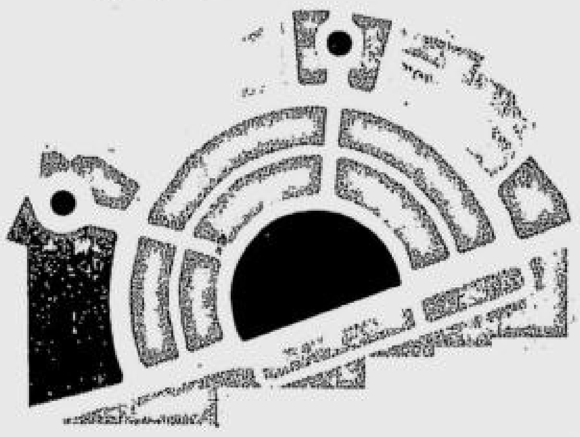

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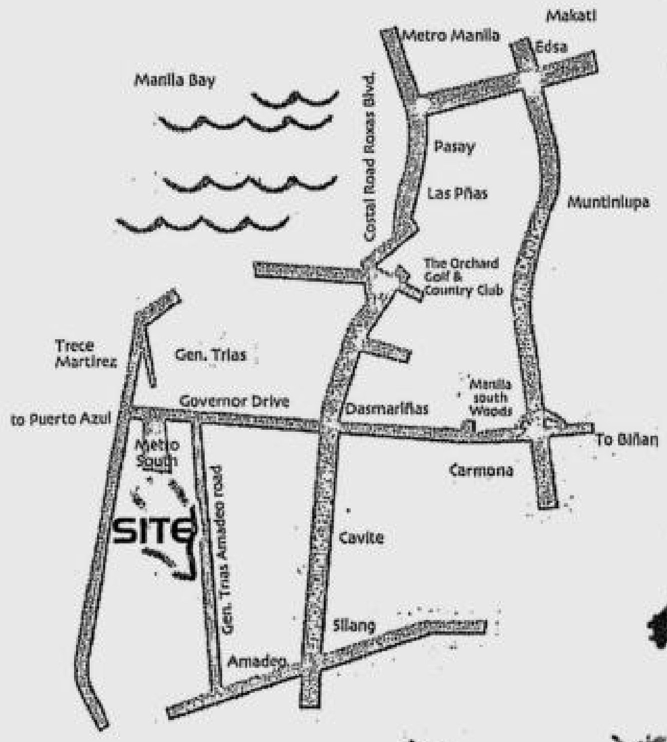
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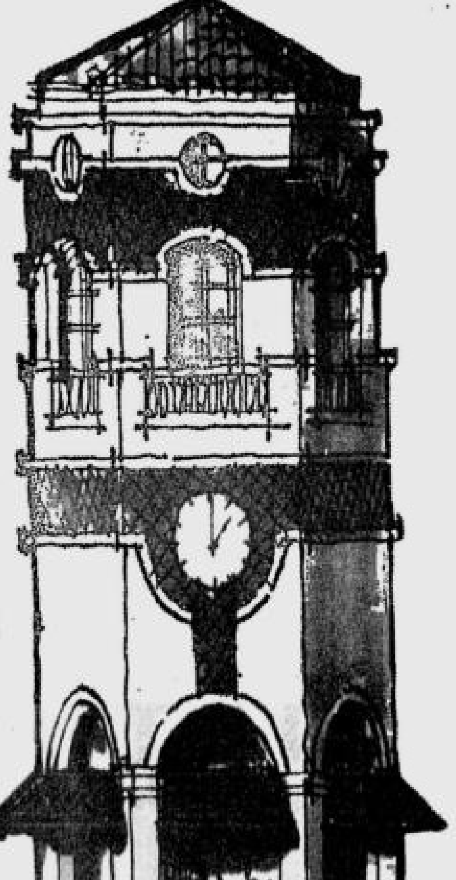

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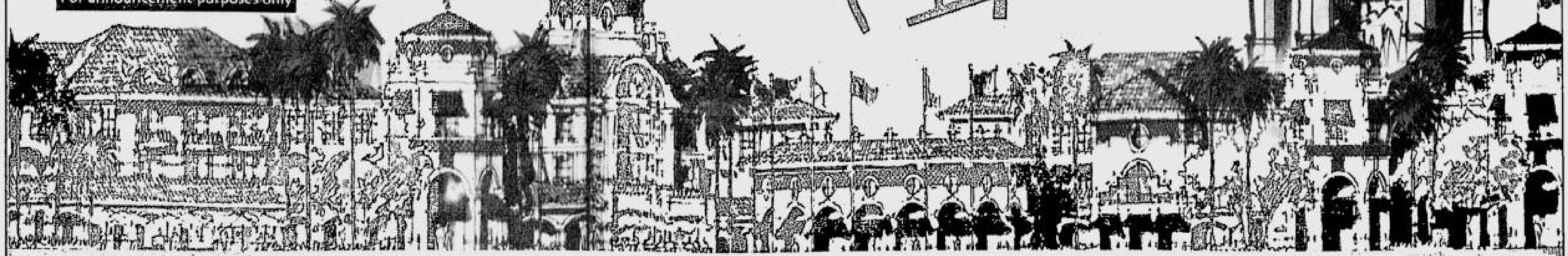

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Disoriented justice

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IN A decision involving a P1.2-billion fortune, Court of Appeals Justice Bienvenido Reyes had been, to use his description of his mistake, "mis-impressed" in ordering the release of the cash and properties to a banker whom the government is prosecuting for allegedly robbing his own bank.

The mistake, in brief, involves Reyes lifting a lower court attachment on some P1.2 billion in cash and properties of Jose Go of Orient Bank and his family's Ever Gotesco Group without—this is the legal boner—asking the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which is running after Go's unpaid multibillion-peso loans from the central bank, to first file the required comment/opposition.

The "omission"—again to use another Reyes,' the ponente's, word—had been seized upon by Go last week to try and withdraw P136 million from Equitable-PCIBank, with another Court of Appeals justice, if you believe the banking grapevine, calling up E-PCIBank itself to intercede for Go, assuring E-PCIBank that a writ of execution was on its way.

The Bangko Sentral and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., already down by P8 billion on the Orient Bank closure, naturally moved heaven and earth to have the irregular court order stopped.

Last Monday, Reyes and fellow justices Jose Sabio Jr. and Eubulo Verzola (if his surname rings a bell, it is because he is married to Erap lawyer Cleofe Verzola) admitted to their collective error and reversed their controversial June 11 resolution.

To quote the three learned men's stilted language: "Purely, the omission is so facile to perceive, and as such, cannot be a subtle device calculated to cause damage and prejudice, much less to promote ulterior motives."

The three justices attributed what they called the "unintentional departure from accuracy in procedure" from the "fallibility of men, voluminous records of the case, misimpression . . . (and) freshness of the ponente in his position."

Reyes said he had mistaken the comment earlier filed by the Bangko Sentral in the Manila regional trial court, as the requisite comment before the appellate court when he wrote the order lifting the writ of attachment on the funds and on the Evercrest Golf Resort in Nasugbu, raw lands in Dagupan City, subdivisions in Caloocan, and a yacht in Subic Yacht Club aptly named "Advance".

Reyes, who had been on the case since August 2000, actually brought the Orient Bank case with him from the original 10th Division of the appellate court when he was transferred in February to the present Special 5th Division.

Go and the collapsed Orient Bank are being represented by Balgos and Perez, the former law firm of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Stock Market Dead

IF the anchors and reporters of the Stock Market Live seem dispirited as the market they are covering these days, it is because their parent company ABS-CBN has decided to shelve the program starting July 16.

Hammered by the falling peso and ballooning foreign-denominated debt, the broadcast giant is cutting down on manpower and production costs, and Stock Market Live is, unfortunately for our colleagues, one of the programs that would be canned.

A planning seminar is in fact scheduled this weekend to discuss, among others, the directions of the stock market coverage (like competing Channel 11/CNBC, the ABS-CBN News Channel's market coverage would be limited to a running ticker tape, according to the initial proposal) and, most importantly, the fate of the program staff themselves.

Most likely, if the staff could not be taken in by the existing programs and they themselves could not cook up a new ratings-and-ads drawing program, they would most likely join what has been euphemistically called the Philippine Navy division of ABS-CBN.

The bright side of this scenario is that at least the staff would still receive their pay envelopes (here is where the legendary generosity of the Lopezes comes in) in these parlous times even if most of the time the staff would be reduced to simply, to use a local idiom, counting Meralco posts.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER haciendero cousins Danding and Peping Cojuangco, the biggest horse owners in the San Lazaro hippodrome are two regional directors of the Bureau of Internal Revenue whose monthly government pay checks are not more than P30,000 each.

We are trying our very best to maintain a straight face and not to make side comments while writing this particular item.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

ROGER MARGALLO

BONIFACIO RISING

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. president Ricardo Pascua (left) and FBDC senior vice president Carlos Rufino take a closer look at a scale-model of Bonifacio Ridge, a mixed-use condominium being built at the Fort Bonifacio central business district.

BSP flexes muscle, warns banks against speculation

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday warned bank treasurers against engaging in speculative activities that would bring down the peso's value against the US dollar.

Apart from using moral suasion to support the local currency, the central bank also sold over $50 million and accounted for more than half of the $111.06 million worth of transactions in the Philippine Dealing System.

With threats to the peso easing temporarily, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board kept its overnight borrowing and lending rates unchanged at 9 percent and 11.25 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was no need to raise the central bank's key rates since the peso's volatility was not coming from the use of funds that speculators borrowed from banks to take advantage of lower interest rates.

"Rates are low enough, but they are sufficient enough to discourage people from borrowing and using the money to speculate against the peso," Buenaventura said.

The central bank's moral suasion, coupled with an aggressive intervention, prevented the peso from slipping past 53 to a dollar yesterday, but it still closed lower at 52.98 from Wednesday's 52.93.

A trader from a foreign bank, however, dismissed the central bank's meeting with banks as "rhetorical," saying no concrete measures were discussed to boost the local currency's value.

"During this time of volatility, we wanted to remind them of their social responsibility. It was also to remind them that we are looking at their sales and their actions," Buenaventura said.

Central bank officials, meanwhile, appealed for foreign and local banks to convince their clients to use the non-deliverable forwards market to cover future dollar needs, following the peso's slide to five-month lows.

Oil companies and other big corporations have been heavy buyers of dollars in recent days to meet forward dollar commitments, which pushed the peso to a five-month low of 53.10 per dollar on Wednesday.

The BSP met with bank representatives to promote the use of its NDF market, which would "relieve the pressure" in the foreign exchange market given the current imbalance with low dollar inflows and huge demand, Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco told reporters.

"We reiterated to them (banks) that in case their clients would need to cover their future foreign exchange requirements, they can make use of the CRPP (currency rate risk protection program) that is available in the central bank," Tetangco said. ***With a report from Reuters***

New oil players to pay heavy price

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NEW entrant TotalFinaElf Petroleum Philippines said yesterday that the Philippine National Construction Corp. was willing to let fledgling oil industry players set up gas stations along expressways, but that it would extract a heavy price for such access.

An official from Total, who asked not to be named, said the PNCC last year proposed a separate fee structure for new oil industry players planning to build service stations along the north and south Luzon expressways.

"That structure imposes higher fees that will be collected from new players compared with those from the Big Three," he said.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. currently pay PNCC a one-time opening access fee of P100,000 for each service station put up along expressways.

They are also paying a monthly operating access fee of

- 1 centavo per liter for stations with up to 200,000 liters of oil products;
- 2 centavos per liter for stations that hold products between 200,000 and 400,000 liters; and,
- 3 centavos per liter for stations that hold more than 400,000 liters of oil products.

PNCC wants new players to shell out 7 percent of the project cost as an entrance fee.

A document prepared by Total said this fee would amount to about P7 million considering a service station would cost about P100 million to put up.

New players would also have to pay 3 to 4 percent of gross sales as a royalty fee.

"This leaves almost no margins to the operator and the principal (of the service stations)," Total said.

Apart from the entrance and royalty fees, new players would have to pay:

- An assessment fee for communication and power utilities;
- A traffic management fee during the construction period;
- A land occupancy fee for the acceleration and deceleration lanes;
- A damage to property fee; and,
- A disturbance fee for the cost of expressway fences that would have to be removed to allow motorists access to the stations.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR-LETTER

TO : ALL UNIVERSAL AND COMMERCIAL BANKS

To allow the proper classification of foreign exchange (FX) transactions of FOREX corporations for the balance of payments compilation, banks shall submit a weekly report on the FX transactions of their FOREX corporations in the required BSP format. All subsidiaries/affiliates of banks whether or not named as FOREX corporation but engaged in buying and selling of foreign exchange are classified as such. The said report format shall likewise be adopted when complying with the requirement under Circular-Letter dated 20 June 2000 for banks with FOREX corporations as subsidiaries/affiliates to make available at all times to the BSP a listing on a daily basis of the purchases and sales of FX of their FOREX corporations.

The prescribed weekly report shall be submitted in hard copy, original to the Department of Economic Research (DER), within five (5) banking days after the end of each reference week. Duplicates will also be provided to the Department of Commercial Banks I and Department of Commercial Banks II.

The penalty provision for failure to submit the weekly report to the DER on the prescribed dates shall be ₱1,200.00 for each day of delay until complied, computed in accordance with Subsection X162.2 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks. On the other hand, the penalty provision of Circular-Letter dated 20 June 2000 shall be maintained for failure to provide the BSP with the listing therein prescribed when requested.

This Circular-Letter shall apply to reports beginning 01 January 2001 in accordance with the following schedule:

For the month of:	**Deadline of submission**
January to June 2001*	July 13, 2001
July onwards	To follow the weekly submission as prescribed

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*consolidated for each month

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA**
Governor

27 June 2001

Nextel ready with data business

By Abigail L. Ho

TRUNK radio operator Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. said yesterday that it would soon provide wireless data services and compete head on with the country's biggest mobile phone firms.

Nextel president Emilio Festejo told the INQUIRER that Nextel was already testing its data network, part of its $50-million network expansion program.

"We are on track with our expansion. These upgrades will prepare Nextel to provide additional services, like data, in the future," he said.

Nextel is currently upgrading and enhancing its network in Metro Manila and in central and western Luzon, including Subic Bay, Cabanatuan and Tarlac.

Festejo said Nextel would offer new GSM (global system for mobile communications) services to its clients, but he refused to provide details.

"We don't want to bring these out prematurely, but one example would be the handset technology. Since 1999, we've been trying to allow packet data without handset upgrades," he told the INQUIRER.

Packet data are transmitted through the GPRS (general packet radio service), or 2.5G platform, which provides higher data capacity and faster transmission, as well as the "always-on" Internet advantage.

Festejo said Nextel's new handsets would enable users to download Java applications, "not something that GSM operators can do. In fact, it's raising a lot of eyebrows in the IT (information technology) community. It changes the whole equation when it comes to offering wireless data services."

Festejo said Nextel had already spent most of its $50-million expansion budget. The company, he said, was already putting together a business plan and that its budgeting process was set to take place in the third quarter.

"It's difficult to say (how much we'll be needing next time), but we are very conservative because there has to be a lot of tradeoffs given the economic situation today," he said.

He said despite an economic slump here and abroad, the local wireless industry remained resilient.

"I believe we can still muster a significant amount of investment," he said.

Consumer prices . . .

(From page B1)

However, the reversal of the slowdown in the CPI seen in May is seen to discourage the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas from following the US Federal Reserve's lead in interest rate reduction.

"The important impact is on the local interest rate policy. With the pressures from the peso depreciation and the rise in inflation, we'll probably see the BSP deciding against aggressive cuts," Abacus Securities research head Emilio Neri Jr. said.

The increase in food, beverage and tobacco prices took its heaviest toll on the National Capital Region where the inflation rate went up sharply to 8.2 percent in June from 7.2 percent in May. Inflation in areas outside Metro Manila decelerated to 6.2 percent from 6.3 percent in May due to the softening of the prices for services and miscellaneous items.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3830

LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

MESSAGE

MY WARMEST greetings to the Rotary International District 3830 on its turnover ceremonies.

I would like to commend the Rotary International District 3830 for its significant contribution to society by providing relevant humanitarian services, encouraging high ethical standards among its members and fostering goodwill and peach throughout the world. I hope that this event will strengthen camaraderie among the members of the Rotary International District 3830 and inspire them to commit themselves to nation building.

The concerted efforts of civil society and government help in providing the needed boost to expedite our national recovery efforts. Our administration is fortunate to have found a partner in you so the task of rebuilding this nation can be made more surmountable. I enjoin the Rotary International District 3830 to continue their noble objectives in alleviating the lives of our countrymen and helping them gain more decent lives.

The government welcomes the efforts of civic-oriented organizations like the Rotary International District 38380 to help promote the virtues of good governance, responsible citizenship, social justice sustainable development. Let us work together in rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability.

Congratulations to the new officers. *Mabuhay!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

The charm of Rotary

> The theme, "Mankind is our business," commits all Rotarians to extend compassion and practical aid to those whose lives have been afflicted by poverty, disease, ignorance, and natural disaster

THINK of an organization that has a global scope and transcends political and cultural boundaries, and the name Rotary International easily comes to mind. And Rotary International's membership proves it so. This organization is composed of successful professionals and business people from all over the world.

In the Philippines, Rotary International is firmly established with 10 districts. Foremost among them is Rotary District 3830 composed of Rotarians belonging to the country's premier financial and industrial districts. The 62 clubs under RI District 3810 cover the areas of Makati, Paranaque, Pateros, Taguig, Muntinlupa and the island resort of Palawan.

The district marks a milestone today as new sets of officers assume leadership with District Governor Ernesto Salas at the helm. "I consider this batch among the most progressive and I am quite confident that despite the challenges ahead of us we can smoothly reach our goals," declares Salas.

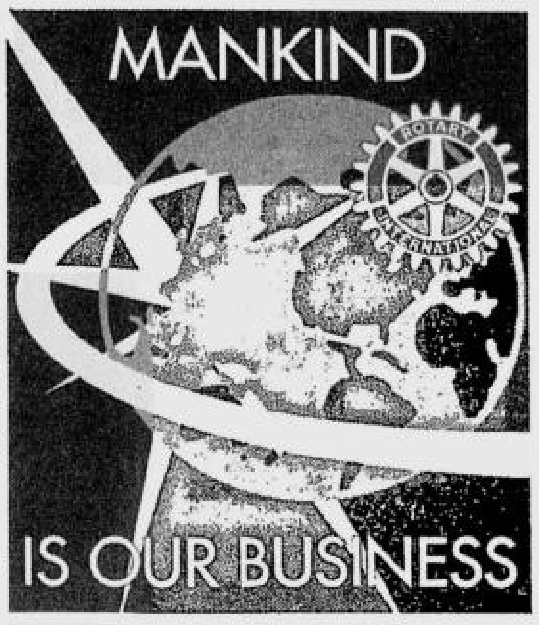
At the start of another Rotary Year, the district will have their hands full in realizing Rotary International's theme "Mankind is our Business." Simply put, the theme commits all Rotarians to extend compassion and practical aid to those whose lives have been afflicted by poverty, disease, ignorance, and natural disaster. The second commitment will be for all Rotarians to reach out to business and professional leaders and bring them into the folds of the Rotary.

"Our vision for this year is aligned with Rotary International's own vision, and since Rotary International President Richard King has chosen the theme, 'Mankind is our Business,' the thrust of this district as well as the others is to implement projects faithful to this theme," explains Salas.

In response to RI's global quest for membership growth, the 10 districts in the Philippines have been given a quota of 4,000 new members. RI District 3830 was tasked to deliver 800 new members. "I feel even with the hard times we will be able to deliver this number," assures Salas. "After all, the more Rotarians we have the more effective we can be in implementing our projects."

King has emphasized that the districts will be setting the stage for significant and

THE CHARM/ B7



THE Rotary International 2001-2002 theme is taken from Charles Dickens' beloved story, A Christmas Carol. In this cautionary tale, a hard-hearted businessman named Ebenezer Scrooge tries to reassure Marley by saying, "But you were always a good man of business," the distraught ghost cries despondently: "Business! ***Manking was my business.*** The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were, all, my business."

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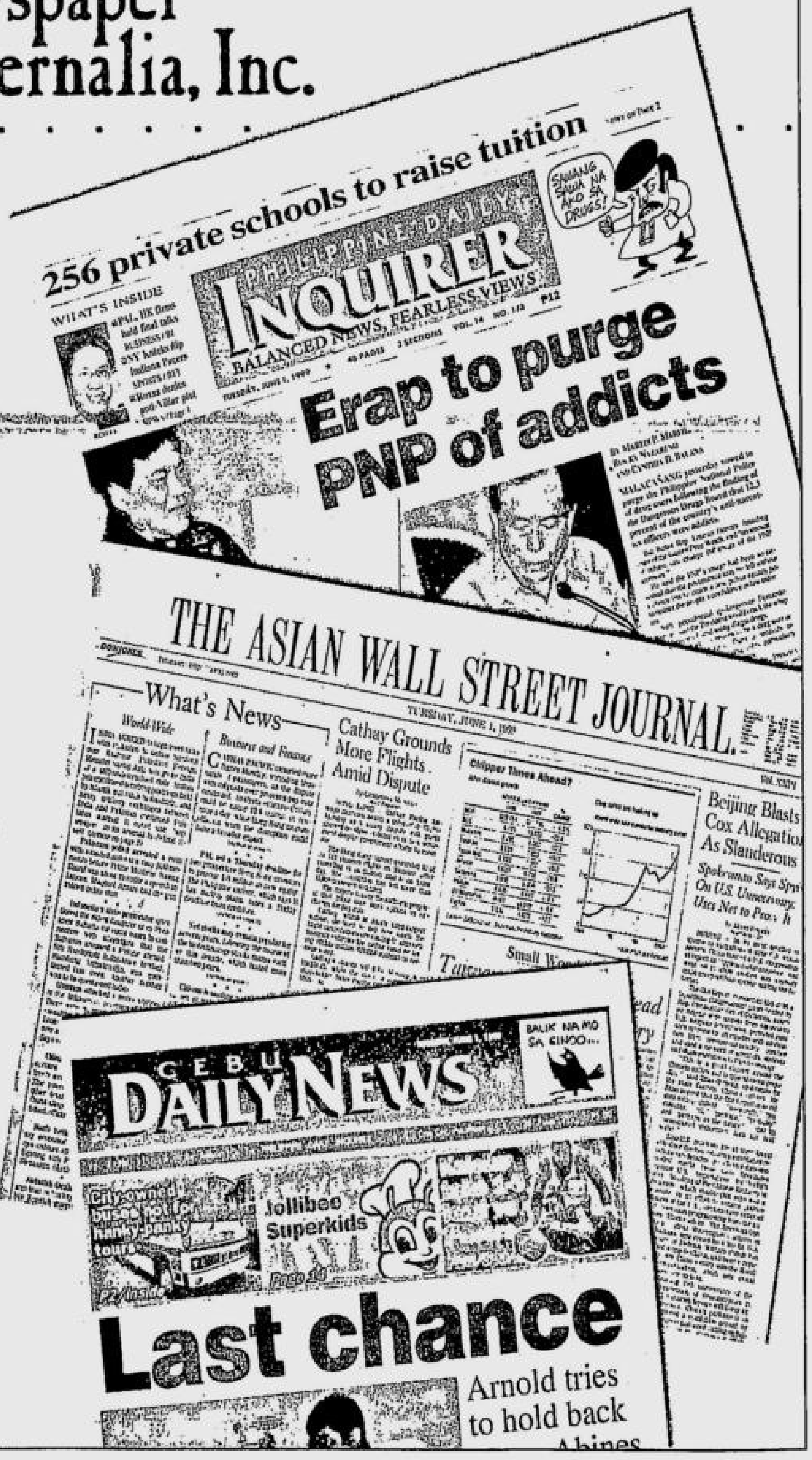
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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

Platinum Plans President & CEO Ernie L. Salas
R.I. District 3830 Governor 2001-2002

From the Platinum Plans family
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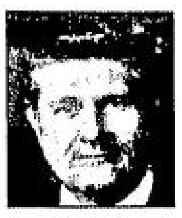
MESSAGES



DEAR Fellow Rotarians:

I welcome this opportunity to congratulate and extend my best wishes to all the officers elected to serve in 2001-02. Your fellow Rotarians have shown their confidence in choosing you to lead during the coming year. During 2001-02, I am asking all Rotarians to conduct the business of Rotary by working to meet the ever-growing needs for Rotary service in our communities and our world. To accomplish this goal, it is essential that we continue to bring in new members, especially those individuals who are seeking a way to use their talents and experience to help others.

This year, I would like you to help focus on the following key issues.

- Increasing Rotary's membership by bringing in members and sponsoring new clubs;
- Undertaking community service projects;
- Undertaking new international service projects; and
- Enhancing Rotary's public image in the community and throughout the world by your commitment to the business of Rotary.

Thank you for your commitment and support to Rotary International. The dedication of rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in support of these key issues will ensure a future for Rotary that is bright with possibilities. In declaring that Mankind Is Our Business, we are making a commitment to all of humanity – a commitment that will ultimately transform the lives of both those who need Rotary's humanitarian service and those of us who are privileged to offer it.

With warm regard.

RICHARD D. KING
2001-02 President, RI

TO MY DEAR fellow Rotarians in District 3830, Philippines:

Over the years, Rotary District 3830 has evolved into one of the strongest districts in the Philippines, mainly because of the education, commitment and continued improvements instituted by our distinguished leaders in the club and the district, and our hardworking members in the club level.

We are now in a period when we are about to begin a fresh year of Rotary service together. Yet the times that we will face would be far more different. It will be a period where the challenges of the times will be more difficult, demanding, tough. But though daunting, achieving the shared goal of world understanding and peace is attainable and reachable.

Friendship is the key by which Rotary service survives. Friendship is the essence of Rotary. Let us, therefore, aim to strengthen our existing friendships with our fellow Rotarians and the community; and further create opportunities to establish new ones. As the premier district in the country, let us be one in perpetuating Rotary service in District 3830 by acts of kindness, selflessness, humility, magnanimity and goodwill. Let us bear in mind that Rotary friendship, as in the commitment to serve, has no borders, surpasses personal beliefs and principles, and encompasses race, color or creed.

That we have given ourselves for the interest of Rotary service is its own reward. By being instruments of peace and understanding, we help improve the lives of others, and ours even more.

Rotary year 2000-2001 created awareness in us and goaded us all to take action. This year, because Mankind Is Our Business, let us make Rotary service enjoyable for all by further strengthening the bridges of lifelong friendships that we all built together. I ask all of you to be one with me in rendering Rotary service well, despite the hard times of today.

The late Charles "Buzz" G. Tennent, Rotary International president in 1957, aptly said it: "The success of the Rotary movement hinges not upon our impressive number—but upon you and me as individuals, and the way we translate the ideals of service into our day-to-day living—into our thinking—and into our attitudes toward our fellowman."

My best wishes go with us all.

Ernesto L. Salas

ERNESTO "ERNIE" L. SALAS
Governor, RY 2001-2002

The charm of Rotary

(From page B6)

sustainable productivity and growth. He says this should happen when members are educated on the many opportunities Rotary offers, and when the districts disseminate information on its various activities.

The Governor has outlined several strategies for further growth. He enjoins all Rotarians to strengthen ties and interaction between districts. "I would like to see at least one Club President from District 3830 to win the Rick King Award to be given in Barcelona, Spain."

Increasing memberships, however, may not even require a song and dance. "A simpler strategy for inviting members is something we have taken for granted all this time. We should just try asking them to join," explains the Governor. "For all we know, these individuals might be just waiting for our invitation."

The Governor also wants to focus on young professionals, especially women, who could bring youthful dynamism into the club. "The spirit of volunteerism knows no age, so if there are those below 25 who are willing to join, they are most welcome. Regardless of anything, you must be prepared to offer at least one of the three Ts—Time, Talent and Treasure. If you can't help financially, maybe you can help by lending your time to any of the Rotary projects."

Beefing up the Rotary Foundation

Considered the right hand of the Rotary is the Rotary Foundation, the largest non-profit, non-government, non-religious service organization in the world with $650 million in assets. In May 2000, the Rotary International Board of Directors recognized PolioPlus as a special program of RI that had the highest priority over all other programs until worldwide eradication of the disease is achieved in 2005..

"By Rotary's centennial in 2005, contributions to the global polio eradication effort will surpass the US$500-million mark," informs Salas. Rotarians from all over the world have been mobilized to help children be immunized from this crippling disease.

."The Rotary Foundation is the best way for us to provide service across the seas," says the Governor.

During the President-elect Training Seminar, the Governor enjoined each club to recommend full Paul Harris fellows or a Sustaining Paul Harris Fellow. A Paul Harris Fellow is a Rotarian who donates $1,000 to the Foundation. A Paul Harris Sustaining Member on the other hand, is any Rotarian who has given a contribution of $100, or in whose honor a gift of the same amount was made, with the stated intention of making additional contributions until $1,000 is reached. Being a Paul Harris Fellow, says the Governor, is a most coveted recognition among Rotarians. "It also means you have made a substantial contribution to the Foundation many causes," explains the Governor.

A BRIEF HISTORY

FEBRUARY 23, 1905. The airplane had yet to stay aloft more than a few minutes. The first motion picture theater had not yet opened. Norway and Sweden were peacefully terminating their union. On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had in mind was a club that would create fellowship among members of the business community. It was an idea that grew from his desire to find within the large city the kind of community spirit that he knew in the small town where he had grown up.

The four businessmen did not decide then and there to call themselves a Rotary club, but their get-together was, in fact, the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club. As they continued to meet, adding others to the group, they rotated their meetings among the members' places of business, hence the name. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem now the international symbol of Rotary International. By the end of 1905, the club had 30 members.

The second Rotary club was formed in 1908 half a continent away from Chicago in San Francisco, California. It was a much shorter leap across San Francisco's Bay to Oakland, California, where the third club was formed. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and New York City, New York. Rotary became international in 1910 when a club was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. By 1921, the organization was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

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Our dearly beloved

NOLI "TATAT" H. BAUTISTA

passed on peacefully to eternal life on July 4, 2001 at the age of 80.

Her sisters and brothers, **Alma** (†), **Nenette** (**Jo**), **Felix** (†), **Sol** (†), **Betts**, **Nolon** (**Pol**), **Tessie** and **Flory**; in-laws, **Paul Capati** (†), **Cesar Magno** (†), **Nena Syquia**, **Pitong Vergara**, **Sal Razon**, **Caring Yatco**, **Ped Coronel** and **PM Aguas**; 55 nephews and nieces, 115 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; relatives and friends mourn her passing and pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Santa Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 7, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the construction of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Church, Loyola Heights, Quezon City will be appreciated.

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Soldier of Fortune

Q. What's the origin of the word 'soldier?'

A. *Soldier* strictly means 'someone serving in an army for pay, since the word has its origins in the Latin world *solidus*, 'a gold coin.' This word changed as it was used in Spanish and Portuguese into *sueldo* and *soldo*, both names of coins and also the word for 'pay.' So as soldier was one who was paid in such coins.

For the Record. The invading Greek forces under Pyrrhus, king of Epirus in northwestern Greece, defeated the Romans at Asculeum in Apulia in 279 B.C. When Pyrhus was congratulated for his victory by a Greek, he ruefully thought of all the men, close aides and supplies he lost, and sighed, 'Another such victory and we are ruined.' A *Pyrrhic* victory is hence a victory at too high a cost for the victor.

Classified Odd. Mohammed II was Sultan of Turkey from 1451 to 1481. His fabulous conquests made the Ottoman Empire the power it was to be for four centuries. One day, his dinner was interrupted by some pressing affair of state. When he returned to the table, he was much put out to discover that his desert, a juicy melon, had vanished. Mohammed was incensed. Immediately, he interrogated fourteen of his royal attendants. Each denied any knowledge of the theft. Determined to reach the bottom of this larceny, Mohammed then ordered his court doctor to slit open the stomach of each of the pages. Mohammed's hunch was ill-founded. None of the stomachs bore any trace of melon. He apologized, and contented himself with another melon.

WORD WATCH

Akusa : from the Spanish *acusar*, 'to accuse, prosecute.'

PDI – July 6, 2001

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 911-6433/9116001 loc. 6592

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all local manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE-FOURTH (1/4) TON LIGHT UTILITY VEHICLES** with an approved budget of **One Hundred Ninety Three Million Five Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Pesos (P193,536,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from local suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said 1/4 Ton Light Utility Vehicles shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **06 July 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP; 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 19, 2001** at **10:00 AM** (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **August 10, 2001 at 9:00 AM** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **1:00 PM** at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – July 5 & 6, 2001)

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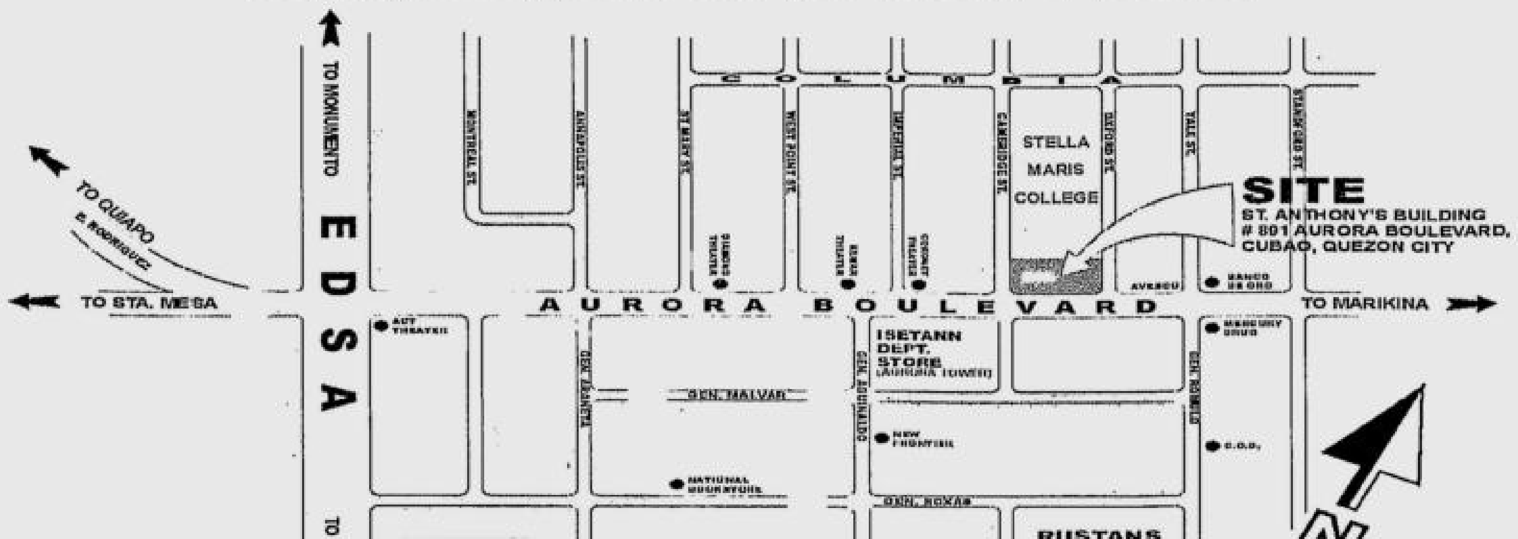

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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project.

SAMAR Rural Electrification Project
Stage 2, Schedule 2 (20 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-098

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 20 Barangays situated in the Towns of CATARMAN and BOBON, NORTHERN SAMAR and SALCEDO and GUIUAN, EASTERN SAMAR.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Ignacius M. Corcuera) starting **JULY 2, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,** Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than **5:00 p.m.** of **JULY 16, 2001.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **AUGUST 15, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **AUGUST 29, 2001, 8:30 a.m.** at the (to be advised later). Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m.** of **SEPTEMBER 18, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
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(PDI – July 5 & 6, 2001)

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THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

deeply mourn the demise of a former colleague

HONORABLE ROLANDO R. ANDAYA

Congressman, First District, Camarines Sur
8th, 9th, 10th Congress (1987-1998)

who joined his Creator last Tuesday, July 3, 2001
at the age of 63.

His remains will be brought to the House of Representatives today, July 6, 2001, from Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City, for a Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM and Necrological Services at 11:00 AM.

After the Necrological Services at the House of Representatives, his remains will be brought back to Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City and will then be transferred to the family residence at Ragay, Camarines Sur on Saturday, July 7, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at Ragay, Camarines Sur.

We request the pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

JESUS S. OSORIO, SR.

of Ibahai, Aklan and Novaliches,
Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 4, 2001 at the age of 78.

His faithful and loving wife **Serna**; children **Yoly** and **Boy**, **Bong**, **Noel** and **Malou**, **Carlos** and **Marilyn**, **John** and **Pinky**, **Jesse** and **Rhoda**, and **Dheng**; together with his grandchildren, brothers, and sisters; in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul as he is born into Eternal Life.

His remains lie in state at No. 12 Kumintang Avenue, Urduja Village, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, 9:00 AM at Serenity Memorial Park, Novaliches, Caloocan City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

WESLEY K. OZAKI

Has serenely joined the Lord in His Kingdom
at the age of 55.

His beloved wife **MARGARITA JUNE**; his loving children **Jun, Edith, DJ, Bryan, Jamie, Kevin, Kullen**; his brothers **Norm** and children **Kris, Catlin, Jenna**; **Bob** and son **Kyle**; **Dave** and **Masa** and sons **Brandon, Matthew, Justin** and **Trevor**; **Ron** and **Gladys** and son **Paul**; Tatay **Rufo Ramos** and family request the kind readers to please pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the New Life Chapel,
Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.
at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory,
Sucat, Parañaque City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

ROLANDO REYES VILLARAZA

Retired RTC Judge of Cagayan de Oro City

Peacefully passed away on Wednesday, 4th of July 2001
at the age of 77.

His loving wife **NIEVES**; his children **JUN** and **JING**, **NANNETTE** and **ARIEL VERGEL DE DIOS**, and **CYNTHIA**; grandchildren **RONAND**, **AIMEE** and **ANGELI**; **DULCE RAMON** and **RC**; his brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with them upon his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at the Greenhills Memorial Chapel Corrales—Chaves Streets, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, 8th of July 2001 at the Greenhills Memorial Park, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City.

In lieu of flowers, your donations to the St. Ignatius Hospice Foundation will be greatly appreciated.

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Who pays DST and how?

By Richard Anthony D. Alcazar
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IN LINE with its objective of setting up an efficient system for collecting documentary stamp tax (DST), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations No. 9-2000 last August to identify people who have to pay the DST.

The regulations identify those responsible for the payment and remittance to the BIR of the DST. The regulations took effect on Dec. 13, 2000.

Persons liable to DST

The DST is imposed against the "person making, signing, issuing, accepting or transferring" the document or facility evidencing the taxable transactions provided in Title VII of the Tax Code.

Thus, in general, it may be imposed on the transaction itself or upon the document underlying such act. Any of the parties in the taxable transaction shall be liable for the full amount of the tax due.

However, the parties may agree between themselves on who shall pay the DST or how they may share in the cost of the tax. If one of the parties to the taxable transaction happens to be exempt from DST, the other party who is not exempt shall be the one directly liable for the tax.

How DST is paid and remitted to the BIR

As a general rule, any of the parties to the taxable transaction shall pay and remit the full amount of the tax. As an exception to this rule, if one of the parties to the taxable transaction is exempt from the tax, the other party who is not exempt shall be the one directly liable for the tax. In this case, the tax shall be paid and remitted by the said non-exempt party.

While as a general rule the full amount of tax may be remitted by any of the party or parties to the taxable transactions, the regulations provide some notable exceptions. Thus, in the following transactions, the regulations give a particular party the duty to remit the DST to the BIR regardless of who actually pays the DST:

1. **Stamp tax on bonds, debentures, certificates of indebtedness, deposit substitutes, or other similar instruments.** The person that issued the instrument shall remit the tax.

2. **Stamp tax on original issue of shares of stock in a corporation.** The corporation that issues the share(s) of stock shall remit the tax due on the issuance of the shares. The shares of stock is considered issued upon acceptance by the corporation of the subscriber's subscription for stock in corporation regardless of the actual delivery by the corporation of the certificate evidencing the share of stock.

3. **Stamp on jai alai, horse race, lotto, or other authorized numbers games.** The proprietor or operator shall remit the tax. If such proprietor or operator is exempt from tax, it shall collect the tax from the party who is not exempt from the tax, and shall remit the said tax to the BIR.

4. **Other documents.** As a party to a taxable transaction, any of the entities enumerated below shall be responsible for the remittance of the DST. However, if such entity is exempt from DST, it shall remit the tax as a collection agent for the BIR:

- A bank, a quasi-bank or non-bank financial intermediary, a finance company, or an insurance, a surety, a fidelity or annuity company.
- The proprietor or operator of jai alai, horseracing, lotto and other authorized numbers game.
- The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), in the case of shares of stock and other securities traded in the local stock exchange.
- A pre-need company on sale of pre-need plans as provided under Section 186 of the Tax Code. The term "pre-need" company shall include those providing pre-need health care services, educational plan, memorial plan, pension plan and other similar services.
- An educational institution in respect of issuance of taxable certificates that are taxable under Section 188 of the Tax Code.
- Warehouse operators in respect of warehouse receipts that are taxable under Section 189 of the Tax Code.
- A corporation in respect of the stamp tax on "proxies" in the exercise of stockholder's voting right that are taxable under Section 192 of the Tax Code.
- The transportation contractor in respect of the Bills of Lading or Receipts that are taxable under Section 191 of the Tax Code.
- Franchise grantees and other taxpayers paying a fixed percentage of the prescribed taxable base in lieu of all internal revenue taxes.

The tax-exempt party constituted as a collection agent of the BIR shall issue an acknowledgment receipt in respect of the DST collected from the other party, and shall remit the DST to the BIR. If such tax-exempt party fails to collect and remit the DST, he shall be treated personally liable for the tax, in addition to the penalties, prescribed under the Tax Code for failure to pay the tax on time.

Online electronic DST imprinting machine

The regulations also introduced the use of "online electronic DST imprinting machine" in line with the computerization program of the BIR. The term "online electronic DST imprinting machine" refers to a device capable of imprinting the value of the stamp tax and other data on the taxable document, with remote loading and resetting feature, and/or with built-in modem, which enables users to load/purchase the stamp tax value through an online set-up or electronic data transmission with the BIR, thereby enabling the latter to monitor actual usage or stamp consumption of the users.

Unless expressly exempted by the commissioner of BIR on meritorious grounds, the following class of taxpayers shall use the "online electronic DST imprinting machine" in the payment and remittance of the DST:

- A bank, a quasi-bank or non-bank financial intermediary, a finance company, or an insurance, a surety, a fidelity, or annuity company.
- The PSE, in the case of shares of stock and other securities traded in the local stock exchange.
- Shipping and airline companies.
- A pre-need company on sale of pre-need plans as provided under Section 186 of the Tax Code.
- Such other industries as may be required by the BIR commissioner.

Absolut splashes flavored vodka on Pinoy tastebuds

By Amelita R. Remo

MARKETING STRATEGY

FILIPINOS have a penchant for flavors as seen from our varied food and drinks. Remarkably, the same goes even for hard drinks and imported spirits.

This is one of the reasons why The Absolut Company decided to launch its Asian marketing campaign for its latest variant, Absolut Mandrin, here in the Philippines.

Linn Sandberg, communications manager of The Absolut Company for Asia Pacific, says "Filipinos have a good taste in flavored vodkas, which is a benefit for our new product, "

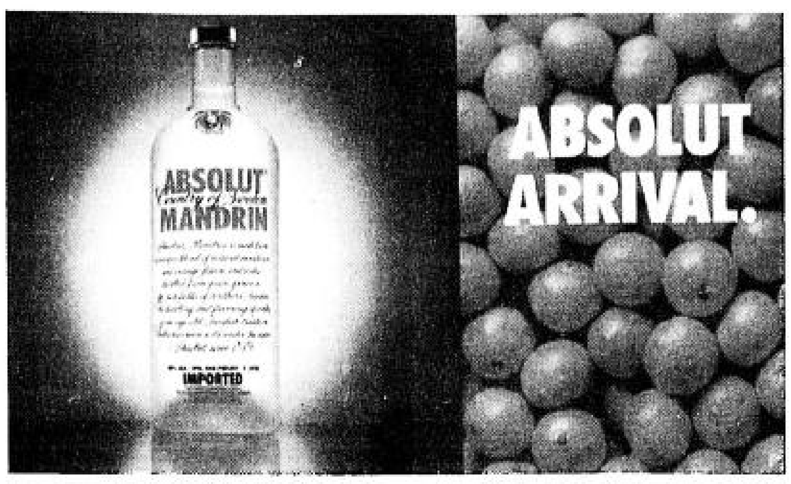
Absolut Mandrin is made from citrus fruits—mandarin and orange being the dominant flavor, but other citrus flavors are added to give a fuller flavor, and a little sweetness was introduced. The drink was brought to the market in 1999.

Sandberg explains that the Philippines was chosen as the launch site because figures show that the country is one of Absolut's biggest markets for flavored vodkas, comprising about 40 to 50 percent of Absolut sales. The rest consume the classic Absolut vodka.

The Swedish official says these figures are quite remarkable since the sales of Absolut Vodka worldwide comprise 80 percent of sales while the flavored ones only account for 20 percent.

Furthermore, not only do Filipinos like the flavors, but are also good in mixing cocktails. In short, the Philippine market is ready to take on Absolut Mandrin.

According to Ted McDonnell, director of Premier Wine and Spirits Inc., the local distributor of Absolut, "The launching here in the Philippines can also be attributed to the maturity of the Filipino consumers and their interest in Absolut flavored brands, but specifically it is really to the unique situation that we have—80 percent of Philippine market share in the vodka category; very few markets can find Absolut at such a number."



THE PHILIPPINES is the only country in the world where consumers drink more flavored vodka.

Furthermore, Absolut's area director for Asia Pacific Eva Hedberg says Filipinos have an international outlook—they are more US-focused than any other nationalities in Asia, and US happens to be Absolut's biggest market. A lot of Absolut's ads appear in international magazines so the Filipinos are actually exposed to the campaign to a greater extent than other Asians.

McDonnell stresses, "Absolut is very rigid in their guidelines but they also are sensitive to local situations and standards so they have allowed us over the last five years to develop programs still within the guidelines, yet localized, to give Absolut that local feel that made it a popular brand today here in the Philippines."

Last year's "Absolut Malate" is one of their projects they hope to follow through in order to launch Absolut Mandrin. For a whole week, Absolut held art competitions, exhibits, drama, theater, ballet, symphony and a rave party in the streets of Malate in recognition and as a tribute to the arts and artists of the Philippines.

There were also painting murals for local universities where Absolut provided a wall for these young artists to work on, which they finished within a week. It proved to be an effective marketing campaign for Absolut.

For the rest of the year, Absolut has several projects lined up, similar to what it did last year with "Absolut Malate." It will be introducing Absolut Mandrin to various bars and restaurants. Art recognition, dramas, theater and rave parties will follow, similar to how it launched Absolut Mandrin in Europe and the US. It will position the new drink with the Filipino artist.

The aim of which is to make the hero, not only the bottle, but also the local artist, the local person.

Absolut will still be using its 22-year old advertising campaign, which features the bottle as the hero of the ad. This award-winning advertising and marketing campaign of Absolut continues to break new grounds in communicating the brand's core values of clarity, simplicity and perfection as exemplified in their "reveal bottle."

"The consistency of the campaign enables us to use the same ad in different markets and still get our message across cultural and regional boundaries," Sandberg adds.

The effectiveness of the Absolut's ad campaign can be seen through its increased shipments over the past 22 years. With its five variants, Absolut Vodka, Peppar, Citron, Kurant and Mandrin, Absolut currently ranks as the third largest international spirit in the world, and the No. 2 international brand of premium Vodka worldwide.

In the Philippines, Absolut has 80 percent of the vodka market.

To Hedberg, what has contributed to the drink's success is the quality of its product. "We believe in the one-source concept in that every single drop, and every bottle of Absolut is made in only one factory, which is in Ahus, a small town in Southern Sweden. So we know that wherever you're drinking Absolut, it's the same vodka. I think that's the most important part of our quality control," Hedberg explains.

Producing vodka in one location using its own local raw materials gives the state-owned, The Absolut Company, complete control of all stages of production.

Even its famous "reveal bottle" is manufactured near the Ahus distillery. The bottle is made with special low-iron sand to ensure a crystal clear glass and is rinsed with, none other than, Absolut Vodka itself.

Behind every bottle of Absolut is 400 years worth of vodka tradition. Sweden, the hometown of Absolut, is part of the so-called vodka belt, which includes Russia and the rest of Northern Europe, but had only started exporting to the US in 1979. Since then, Absolut has achieved significant worldwide sales growth and is now available in 125 markets.

In the Philippines, Absolut was introduced in the late '80s.

Shirt maker taps franchising to go international

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

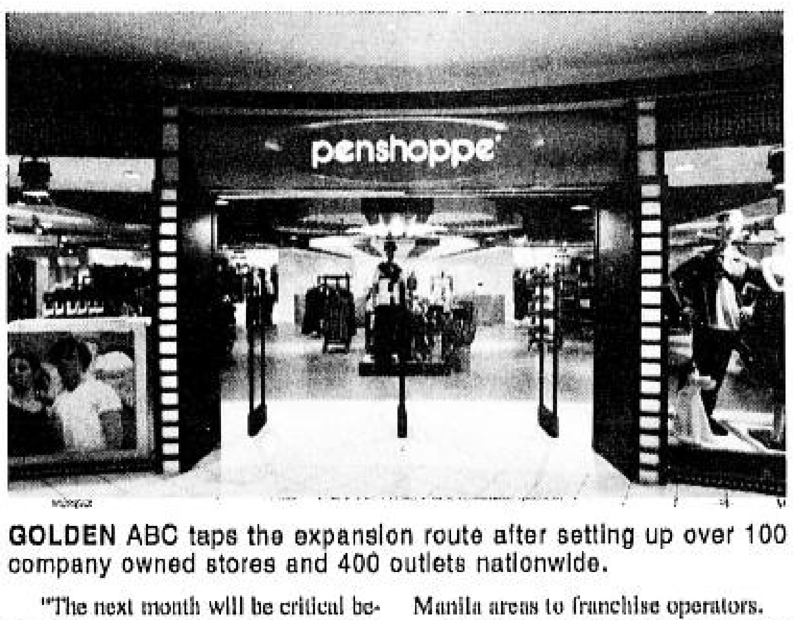
SOME 100 company-owned retail stores and 400 outlets all over the Philippines later, Golden ABC Inc., last year's Most Outstanding Filipino Retailer, has finally decided to tap the franchising method to expand the reach of its anchor brand, Penshoppe.

Dino A. Sagun, Golden ABC vice president for sales, tells Business Friday that the franchising program will hopefully be in place by the end of August, in time for the forthcoming Franchise Asia event.

Cebu-based Golden ABC, which started in 1986, believes that it is the right time to go into franchising because it is the fastest way for the Penshoppe and the Oxygen brands to go international.

"We can not imagine operating our own branch outside the Philippines. The farther away you are from your center of operations, the more difficult it is to operate it. For overseas branches, we need someone who is from there, who knows the business," Sagun explains.

Sagun says a number of foreign investors have started talking to Golden ABC even before it entertained the possibility of going into franchising. Some even came from as far as Ukraine and Botswana.



GOLDEN ABC taps the expansion route after setting up over 100 company owned stores and 400 outlets nationwide.

"The next month will be critical because we want to iron out everything and put the franchising program together. We tapped Francorp to help us because we want the franchising program to be the right one from the start," Sagun says.

Turnover to franchisees

Aside from the international stores, Sagun says Golden ABC plans to turn over some of the company-owned stores outside the core Cebu and Metro Manila areas to franchise operators.

Golden ABC president Bernido Liu says the company chose to manage its own stores at the outset because it believes in the value of creating a shopping experience designed specifically for the teen set.

Golden ABC ventured into the garment business in 1986 and is engaged in the marketing and retailing of ready-to-wear garments for the Philippine market. Its Penshoppe brand enjoys market dominance in the teen set and its new brand Oxygen is making waves in its own market.

The company's vision is to provide Filipinos with clothing brands that live up to international standards on quality, design and value for money, backed up by a strong faith in God and belief in the capabilities of Filipinos.

Brand confidence

Golden ABC is confident that it will be able to successfully penetrate foreign markets because of the strong brand positioning and the firm grasp on the fickle teenage market.

It was able to do this by investing in market research. Penshoppe in the past years has used the Usage Awareness Index (a marketing research tool) and focused group discussions.

"The cost may have been substantial but the information we generated has helped us tremendously in the changes we needed to implement for the brand, especially in recent years," Liu said in an earlier statement.

"Our idea is only a 16-year-old can be a 16-year-old. In order for us to know the shifts in our market's lifestyle, we patiently viewed them from afar. We did not pass judgment. We simply encouraged them to express themselves," he added.

'Wais Lumen' ad goes international

(From page B12)

says Castro. "So our objective was to determine what emotions will you coat the brand with to make the consumer a tad more loyal and make them bond, stick."

Trip to Laguna

To find out what emotions to use, officials of the ad agency left their 17th floor offices at the Rufino Tower and took a two-hour trip to Nagcarlan, Laguna where they observed women washing clothes.

The trip was hot and humid but they learned a lot of cool things.

For one, the small group that included Vicky Ortega, VP and director for brand planning, discovered that a young housewife will always try to please her mother-in-law.

"We found out that it is universal that a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law always fight for the son's affection," Castro says.

Another series shows Lumen suggesting to her mother-in-law to bring *dalanghita* to her child's doctor instead of oranges.

"*Kasing sustansiya pero di sing mahal*," Castro explains and the same is true with soap.

"You are legitimizing their choice," Gustilo adds.

But the effect on sales of the soap was felt only after they ran the third part of the series. By then the Lowe Lintas people knew they had a winner.

But they admit that there were challenges along the way with competitors targeting their advertising line for Surf.

"But the idea is to cushion a lot of the challenges. What makes it a good idea is it grows with the product and protects the margin while it is being attached, then it becomes a really good campaign," he says.

Can this be sustained?

"As long as the theme remains relevant," says Castro.

"In the end, it is based on a human perspective that will not change because human issues are pretty much recurrent," says Gustilo.

The ad was launched when the Philippines was in the middle of a crisis and to this day the country is still in a crisis.

Not an expense

But both Lowe Lintas officials admit that any major ad campaign has to be accompanied by an advertising budget that can even run to a hundred million pesos.

Although neither would reveal how much Unilever spent and is spending for the Lumen ad campaign, Gustilo explains that it is important for client to see it as a good investment.

"All ads are a gamble. Will I pump in million of pesos? Much of the credit goes to client for being courageous enough to say I'll bet on that," says Castro.

"We want the client to look at it on the positive side and not just a mere expense," says Gustilo.

And the key is consistency as one ad will not make a brand, points out Castro.

"Brand is shaped in the minds of the consumers through various channels. A thought crossed my mind that whether you like it or not, a consumer will derive their own impressions about your product based on how they experience the brand," says Gustilo.

Ad becomes the brand

The day the Lumen series on the baptism of her children was launched, they conducted a mass baptism that caused the event to land in the Guinness Book of World Records with more than 760 babies baptized at the same time.

"In the end it's not selling soap anymore but entrenching a brand, an idea. It is bigger than just selling soap," says Castro.

And this is what Lintas hopes to go for everytime, Gustilo says. "The best ad idea is a brand idea."

"The Surf experience allowed us to do that. What we were able to generate was a brand idea. We learned from it year in, year out—how to make it better, how to make it more powerful," she says.

"And we keep on embracing it. Vicky (Ortega) constantly checks on the insights if they are okay—why sales are in a plateau. If they are moving, what in the communication is causing it to move up. If competition is doing something, you also check how it is affecting your parameters," says Castro.

Both claim that while the competition's ads are strong, "we are proud that it has not affected us in a way that will make us worry," says Castro. "Equity is helping."

"If it didn't have a strong equity you will collapse because your competitors are major and aggressive," says Gustilo.

"In terms of a case study, you see through good and bad times how strong an idea is because it can weather challenges," says Gustilo.

Basic tenets

"I think principles are consistent. It must be rooted on genuine insight. It must be very clean on what your advertising wants to achieve first," he says.

One notable ad is the Carlo series of Purefoods Tender Years. Remember that chubby girl whose crush, Carlo, told her she was fat, and she had to decide whether to give up the hotdog or Carlo?

Gustilo admits they did not get it on the first campaign.

"It was supposed to be an anthem on behalf of childhood. If you observe kids up to 10 years old, they can survive on hotdog and spaghetti. Everybody who has children knows that. So we say ok, it should be something about kids and hotdogs," she says.

Their decision was to bring the ad down to a real level - to attack it like you would a short story.

In the case of Carlo, the whole dynamic is that little girls like food and boys. The ad went through 58 story lines and the Carlo line made it in the end.

"What rings through is sensitivity. It is very important for instinct to come into play," she says.

THE TOP guys of Lowe Lintas look over their ads in Baby Magazine. Gustilo and Castro say years of working together have created aligned thinking among the agency people. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

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'Wais Lumen' ad goes international

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THERE is no sure-fire formula for producing a successful ad. But one agency is trying to come up with something that would allow it to duplicate its success in producing winning ads.

Proof of its most recent success is the widespread adoption of one of its ads by foreign countries.

The story of Lumen, the "*wais*" housewife that appeared in the Surf ad that has captured the hearts of Filipinos, will now be retold in similar advertising campaigns in other countries.

The lovable Lumen was a creation of Lowe Lintas and Partners in the Philippines.

Lumen goes international

Elizabeth L. "Mariles" Gustilo, Lowe Lintas president and CEO, says the basic storyline of the Lumen ad will be adopted with some modifications to suit the local nuances.

Raul M. Castro, Lowe Lintas VP and executive creative director, says other countries will have their own version of the Philippines' Lumen.

Vietnam and Indonesia have introduced their own version, to be followed shortly by the United States.

Surf is just one of the winning advertising campaigns created by Lowe Lintas over the past decade. The group is now focused on "canning" this success formula so it can be used to launch or develop other brands.

"We are evolving the ad agency in that direction," he says.

"We learn it and I think we're surer now of having these successful cases," says Castro. "The idea is to keep on repeating it. You must be able to duplicate it for as many brands as possible."

Best campaign

The Lumen ad campaign is the two officials' top choice as the agency's best ad so far.

A close second is the Johnson & Johnson touch campaign (remember that ad starring a newborn with the tagline that touching your child increases her growth).

"In both cases, the ads were used abroad," says Gustilo.

MARILES Gustilo and Raul Castro.

The footages of the J&J touch ad were used in South Africa but done in Spanish.

The J&J ad was based on a study about how several seconds or minutes of touch boosts a baby's growth and also on the experience of one of the ad agency's employees who had a premature baby.

Both ads helped increase sales of Johnson and Johnson and Surf.

Surf's story, however, was the more dramatic as the advertising campaign even helped change its image from a cheap bar to one that can also be found in exclusive subdivisions.

"Prior to advertising, it was just a cheap bar. If people had money they would go back to Tide,"

WAIS/B11

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ **MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ**, Subsection Editor

Trend Spotting

PINK, yellow and gold panels perk up this basic shirt in linen-viscose-polyamide. The pairing of the white shirt with the cotton-polyamide, camel straight-cut pants is as classic as the arabesque.

MARCELO GOMES

Taking a big leap into the big time

(Story on page C2)

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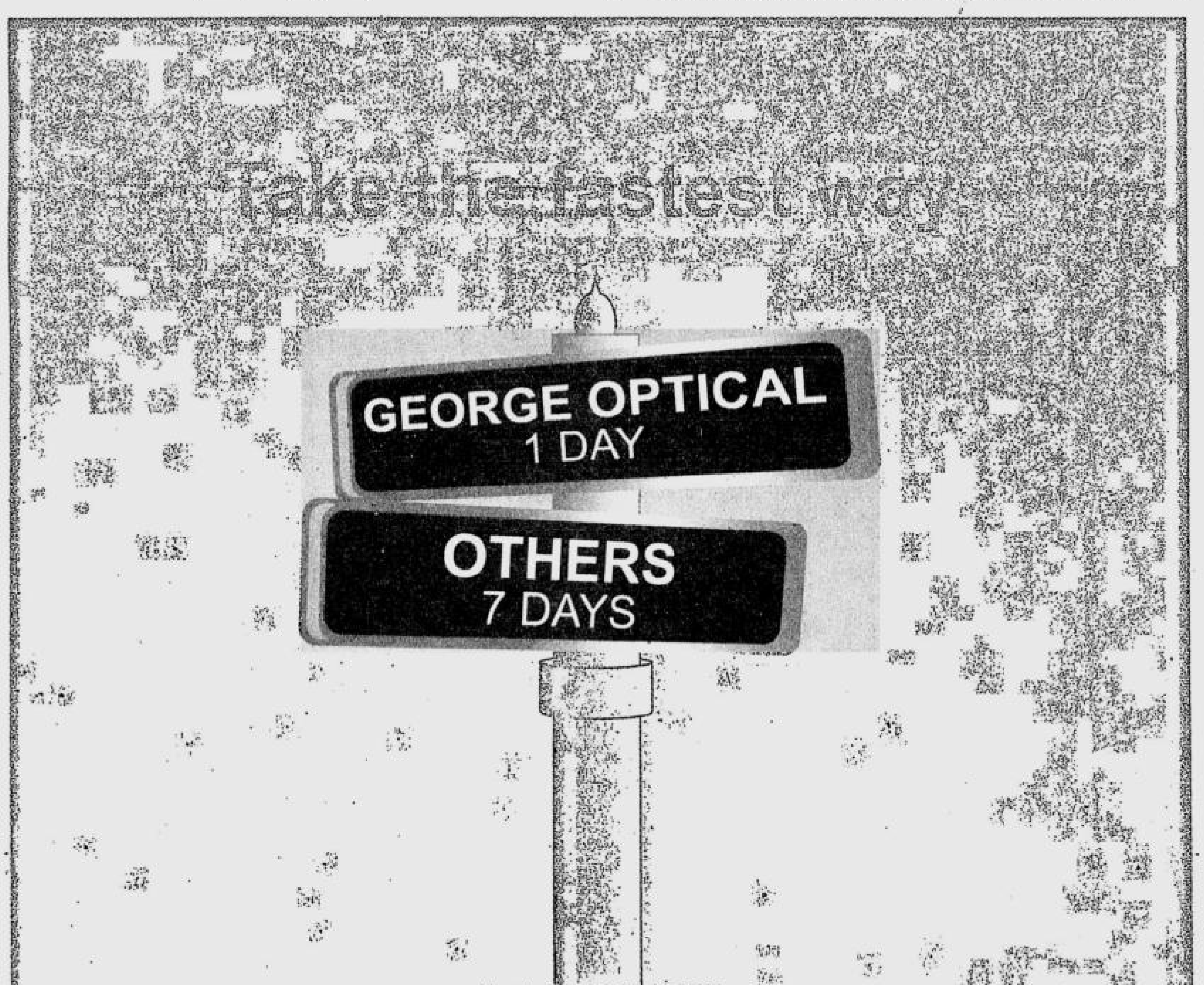

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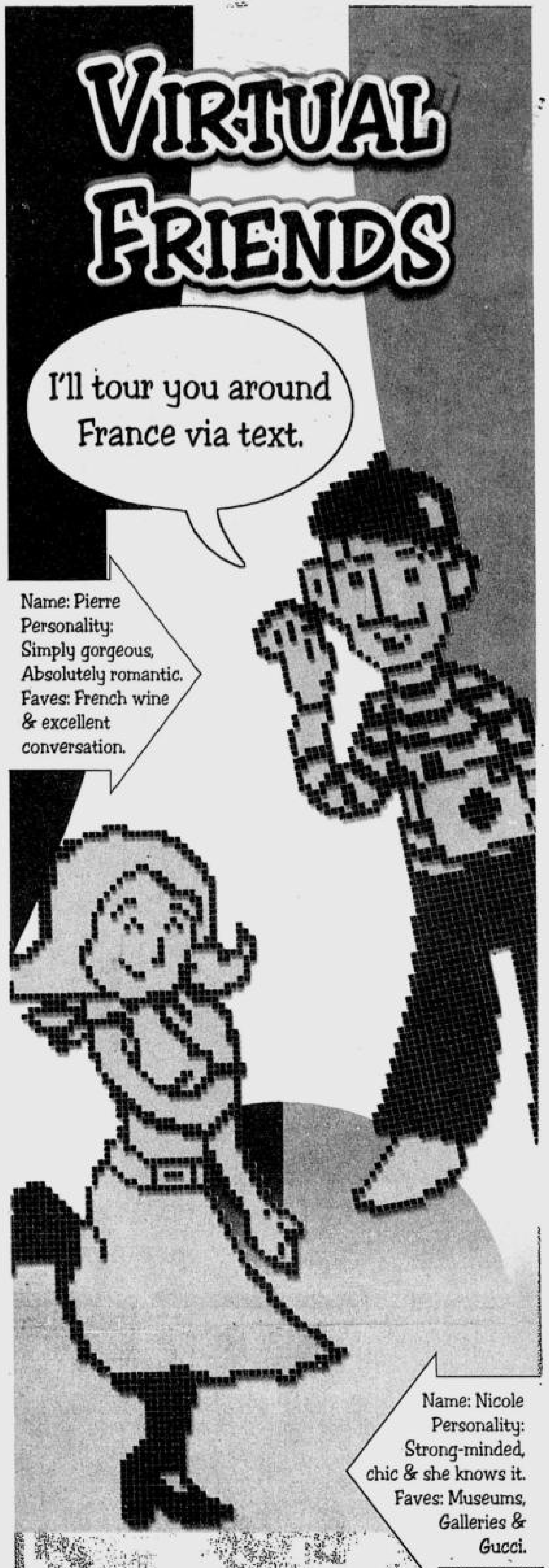

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MARCELO GOMES

Taking a big leap into the big time

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

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LOCATION: HYATT REGENCY

SPECIAL THANKS TO JENNY PUNO

AMERICAN Ballet Theater's soloist Marcelo Gomes isn't being touted as the "next superstar" for nothing.

During the fashion pictorial of the INQUIRER at Hyatt's roofdeck, Gomes' leaps were so prodigious he went beyond the frame of our photographer's digital camera. Without any limbering exercise or warm-up, he easily bounced off the asphalt as if it were a trampoline and split his legs—5 feet off the ground—as sharply as a pair of scissors.

He fully enunciated the movements of his body, arms and legs to make him look taller and longer than his 6-foot frame. He was more flexible than a ballerina that his backbend swept the air in its high-voltage arc.

Gomes' talent has been phenomenal. Pirouettes that seem endless come naturally to him, as well as extensions that shoot like light beams. He admitted that he also went through some rough time in his adolescent years.

Awkward years

"There is a stage where your growing arms grow longer than your torso. Your head is, like, this big and your shoulders are, like, this small," he chuckled animatedly. "That was very difficult because I lost my ability to turn. I said, 'What's going on? What's happening? I can't dance anymore!' But you get over that very quickly. Finally I grew into my body," he said.

In pas de deux, he could not lift until he was 16—which was, in the competitive dance world, considered late. "Most boys were super-developed at that age and they were tossing girls around. 'Why couldn't I do this?' I was scared as my partner. But now, oh, how things change," he chuckled. Dancing with such ballerinas as Amanda McKerrow, Julie Kent and Susan Jaffe has made Gomes one of ABT's reliable partners.

"I love partnering. It's one of my favorite things. I love putting the girl in the first plan. It's what the audience sees. It's the girl and not the partner trying to be like 'Oh, here I am.' She's the one that's turning and lifting her legs. I see partnering as part of choreography, not something you must do before you get to dance. I see that as dancing."

Gomes was flown in from New York to partner Toni Lopez Gonzales and Katrina Santos in "Swan Lake Act 2," and "Paquita Act III" for the Philippine Ballet Theater's season opener this weekend at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He will also perform "Le Corsaire Pas de Deux" with Maricar Medina and Guada de Leon.

Hyatt's owner, Jose Mari Chan, the chair of PBT's board of advisors, hosts Gomes' stay at the hotel.

"It's a joy to be here!" he exclaimed. "The people have been so nice to me. I can't thank them enough for receiving me with wide-open arms. There are so many strong and talented people in the company."

Quick promotion

Gomes was born on Sept. 16, 1979 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A product of the French technique, he worked with very exacting teachers. While studying in a boarding school in Florida, he joined the Prix de Lausanne and won top honors for his performances in the "Nutcracker Variation" and a contemporary solo by Canadian choreographer Mark Godden. In the competition, one of the judges offered him a scholarship at the Conservatory of the Paris Opera Ballet.

While spending his vacation in his hometown, the ABT was on tour. The company needed supers (extras) for its full-length ballets. Gomes wanted the chance to see the company onstage and not pay a ticket every night. So he applied as one of the monks in "La Bayadere." On its last day, he took the company class, and artistic director Kevin McKenzie offered the then-15-year-old talent a contract.

Gomes went to Paris instead and after finishing his scholarship, he called ABT. The company mailed him his contract.

After six months in the corps, Gomes was immediately given the principal role in "Tchaikovsky's Pas de Deux" by Balanchine when the lead danseur got injured. The move raised everybody's eyebrows. This boy hadn't even paid his dues yet and should be staying at the back of the line, and he was already doing the lead. In his three years as a corps Gomes was doing both ensemble and star roles. In "Le Corsaire," he'd play the hero Conrad in one performance, then he'd be just a pirate in the next show.

Although the quick promotion could bring envy, Gomes sees it as healthy competition. He enjoys the multiculturalism and the plurality of dance styles in ABT. He is also awed working with famous contemporary choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Jiri Kylian, Paul Taylor and Mark Morris. "They have such big names, and you're in a studio with them, and they ask you to do things, and you do the movements and they say, 'Yeah, that's what I want,'" he said. To be able to translate what the choreographer wants is the best compliment a dancer can get.

Fears and loves

His talent could be seen as a threat to the principals such as Jose Manuel Carreño and Angel Correlia. But Gomes is quite modest, attributing his early accomplishments to his talent, hard work and dedication.

"I'm only 21 but I feel I've done a lot. About those guys, I see them as friends. They are in a different generation and I'm in a generation below where there are people who are rising stars. I think I'm in their group. We all go together," he said.

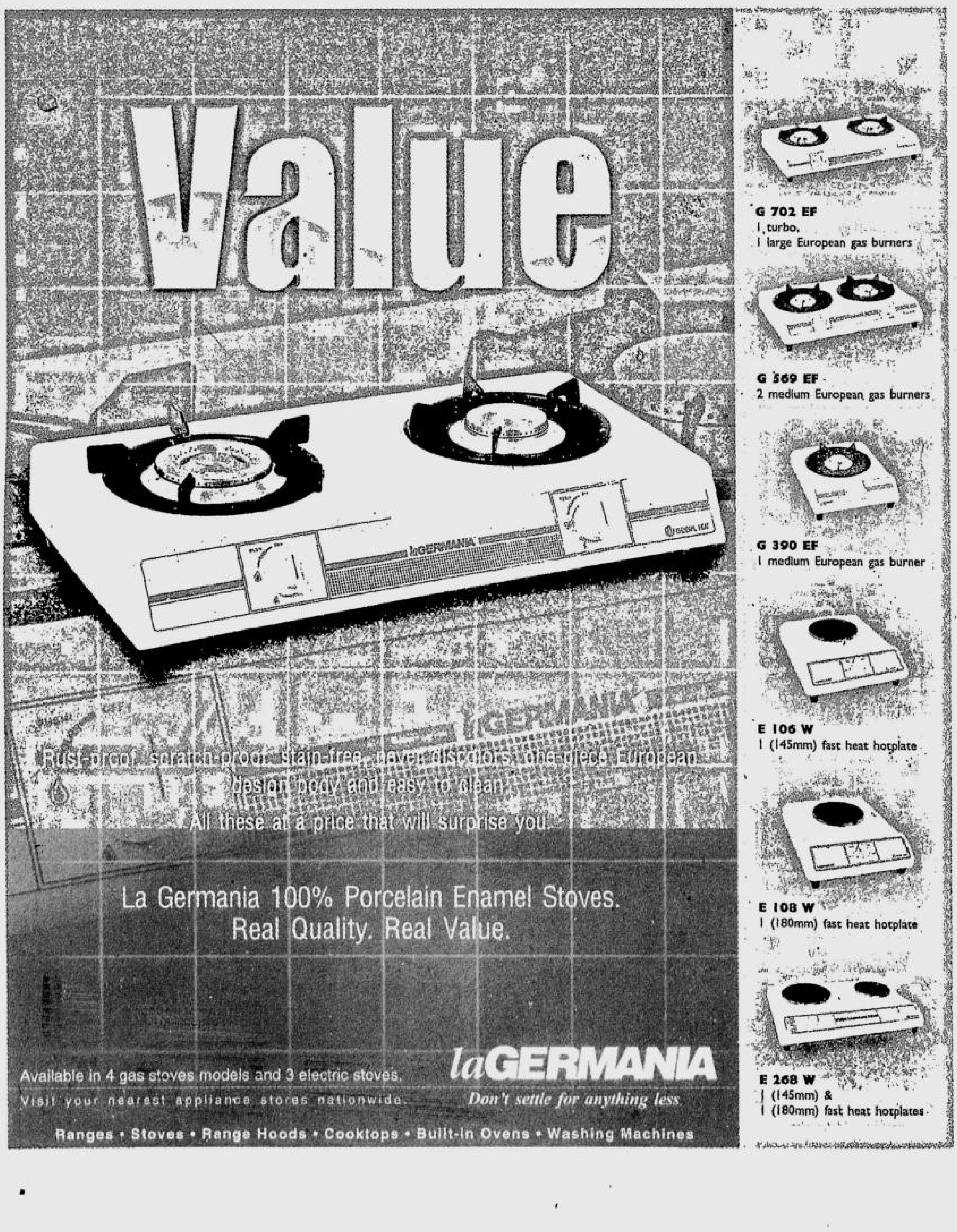
Asked if he had any fears, Gomes took a long pause. "It's what you make it," he replied. "Sometimes I don't want to say I have fear of the stage. It gets harder as you go in your career to be out there and be consistent. I'm afraid of getting older and not being consistent with my dancing and not giving the same performance that I would give every time I'm out there. I feel I want to give the most that I can. Once you've built that certain level, you must keep it or go even higher."

Do girls ask him if he has a love life?

"I like to keep it fresh and active," Gomes said naughtily.

He lives by himself in an apartment with a garden. His favorite pastime is

TAKING/ p.C4



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5. Promo period starts on June 15, 2001 and ends on July 15, 2001.

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4. Individuals who swap their non-SMART SIM get one (1) Talk 'N Text sling bag and 4 game tickets.

5. Each game ticket entitles the customer to participate in a single round at the Inflatable Obstacle Course. Within the course is a Tomb Raider Treasure Chest where players can get free Talk 'N Text keychains.

6. The player who finishes the course first can pick another instant prize from the prize bowl.

   Instant prizes include Tomb Raider shirts, Tomb Raider cassette tapes, Talk 'N Text slings bags, Talk 'N Text keychains and Talk 'N Text caps. The prize indicated in the stub will be given on the spot.

7. A specific time will be set for the course. If a contestant beats the specified time, he gets the chance to pick another prize from the instant prize bowl.

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BEND over backward to make a fashion statement with this striped cotton shirt with a shirttail extension.

Taking a big leap into the big time

(From page C2)

shopping. His favorite label for special occasions is Dolce & Gabbana. He likes to shop in trendy but moderately priced stores such as French Connection, Club Monaco and vintage stores.

Like Carreño and singer-actor Lee Robin Salazar who had modeled Paul Smith fashion for INQUIRER, Gomes was ecstatic about the clothes, particularly the $230 persimmon, fringed shirt. He wanted to include Glorietta in his itinerary aside from the beach.

Looks like he's going to have a shop attack after the show.

Gomes will perform in PBT's "The Great Classics" on July 6-8 at 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. There will be 3 p.m. matinees tomorrow and on Sunday. The other performers are Sonny Locsin, Cathee Lee and Katherine Sanchez. Call 724-3476 or 727-5651

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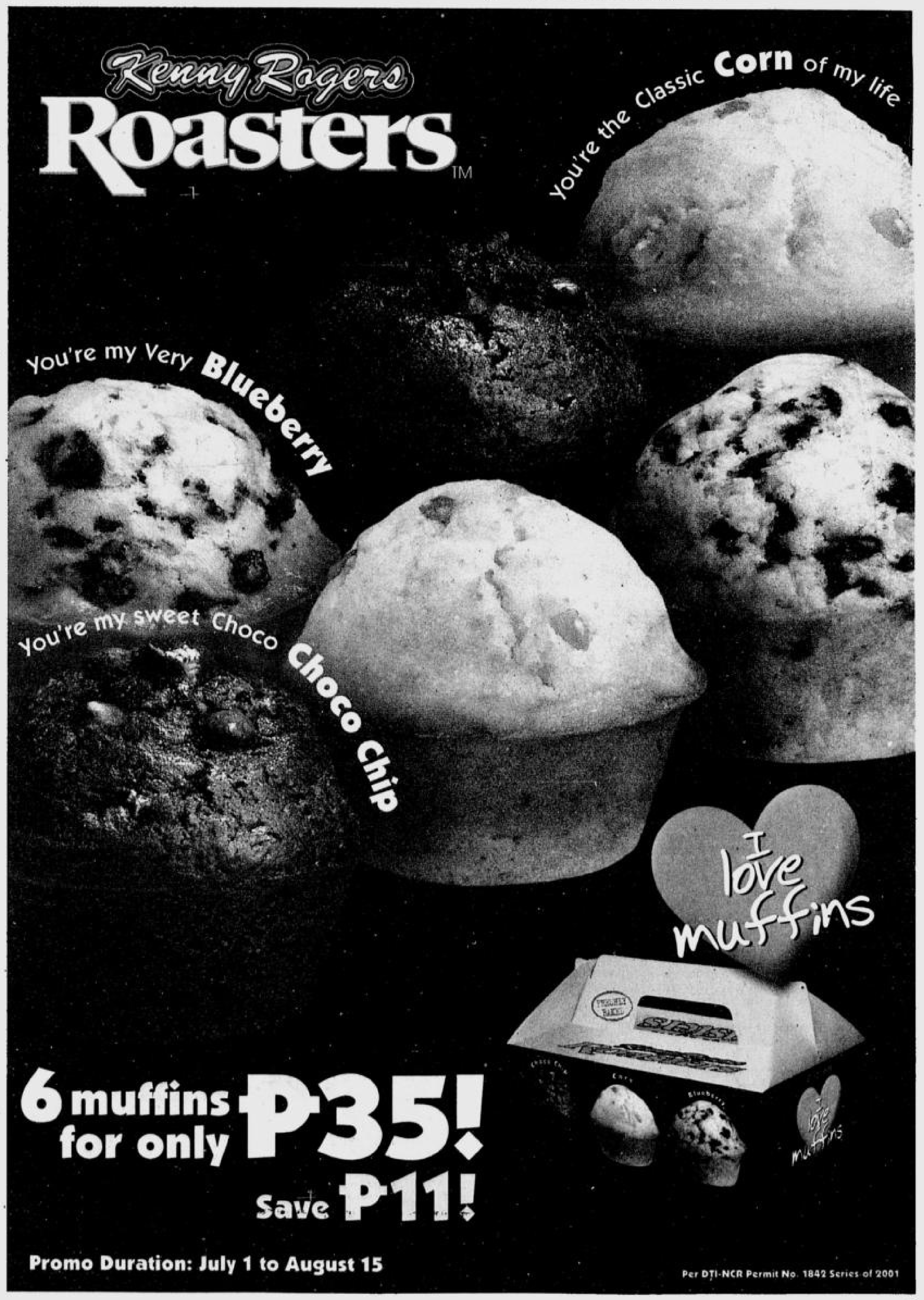
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Trend Spotting

P20 Baon Buddies
BACK 2 Dunkin' Donut and regular Coffee
DUNKIN'

The science of selling fashion

By Harriet Ann Dy

I WENT back to school two weeks ago. Well, sort of. I attended a three-day seminar on "Fashion Merchandising and Marketing: A Perspective" at the Philippine International School of Fashion (PISF) at St. Scholastica's College.

I first heard about the seminar through Lulu Tan-Gan of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP). A proponent of professionalism in the local fashion industry, the FDCP joined forces with the Garment and Textile Export Board (GTEB) while PISF organized the project to give local designers, textile mill managers and retailers a clearer perspective on managing the business side of fashion.

Although I'm none of the above, I decided to sign up for the course. As a fashion reporter, I thought the seminar was the perfect venue to learn more about the other side of fashion.

I wasn't disappointed. For three days, I soaked up information shared by speakers—from marketing to color trend forecasting to branding, quality control and window display.

Informative

I sat with designers Danny dela Cuesta (whose sharp mind raised several significant points during the discussions), Frederick Peralta (another inquisitive pupil), Ricci Lizaso (whose cell phone was almost confiscated due to incessant ringing), Vic Barba (whose witty repartee injected fun into our classes), Tonichi Nocom and Ramil Noveda. Model Rissa Samson and representatives from various textile companies, retailers and garment exporters also attended the event.

On Day 1, Andree Balaguer and Claudine Clotier of PISF gave a general view of marketing, breaking it down into several points. As every designer who dreams of becoming the next Armani or Calvin Klein knows, success in the fashion industry is partly creative talent and largely about the right marketing strategies. We have excellent ateliers but the bigger challenge is moving beyond the made-to-order project and becoming a brand itself. Of course, this is easier said than done, considering that the local fashion industry is almost non-existent. Particularly interesting was Bureau of Patents director Epifanio Evasco's talk on the legal tools that can aid a fashion designer or retailer. Ignorance of the law is no excuse and Evasco's clear explanation of the different design protection tools (contracts, copyrights, trademarks, patents, etc.) provided insights I would be otherwise too lazy to read up on.

Equally excellent was lifestyle designer PJ Aranador's take on

THE SCIENCE/ p.D4

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
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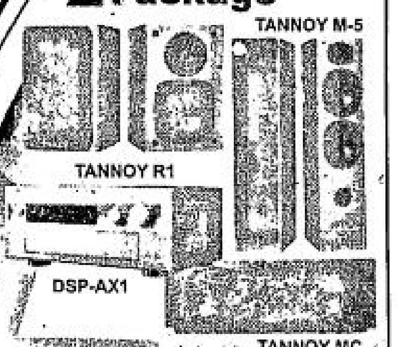

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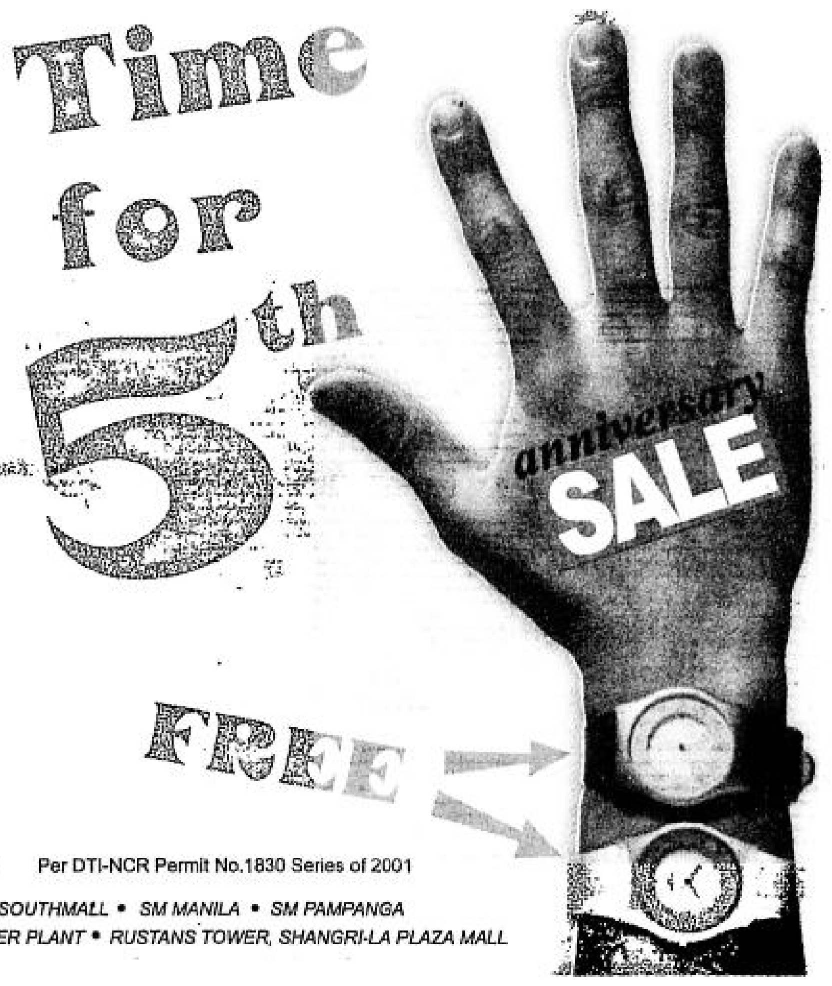
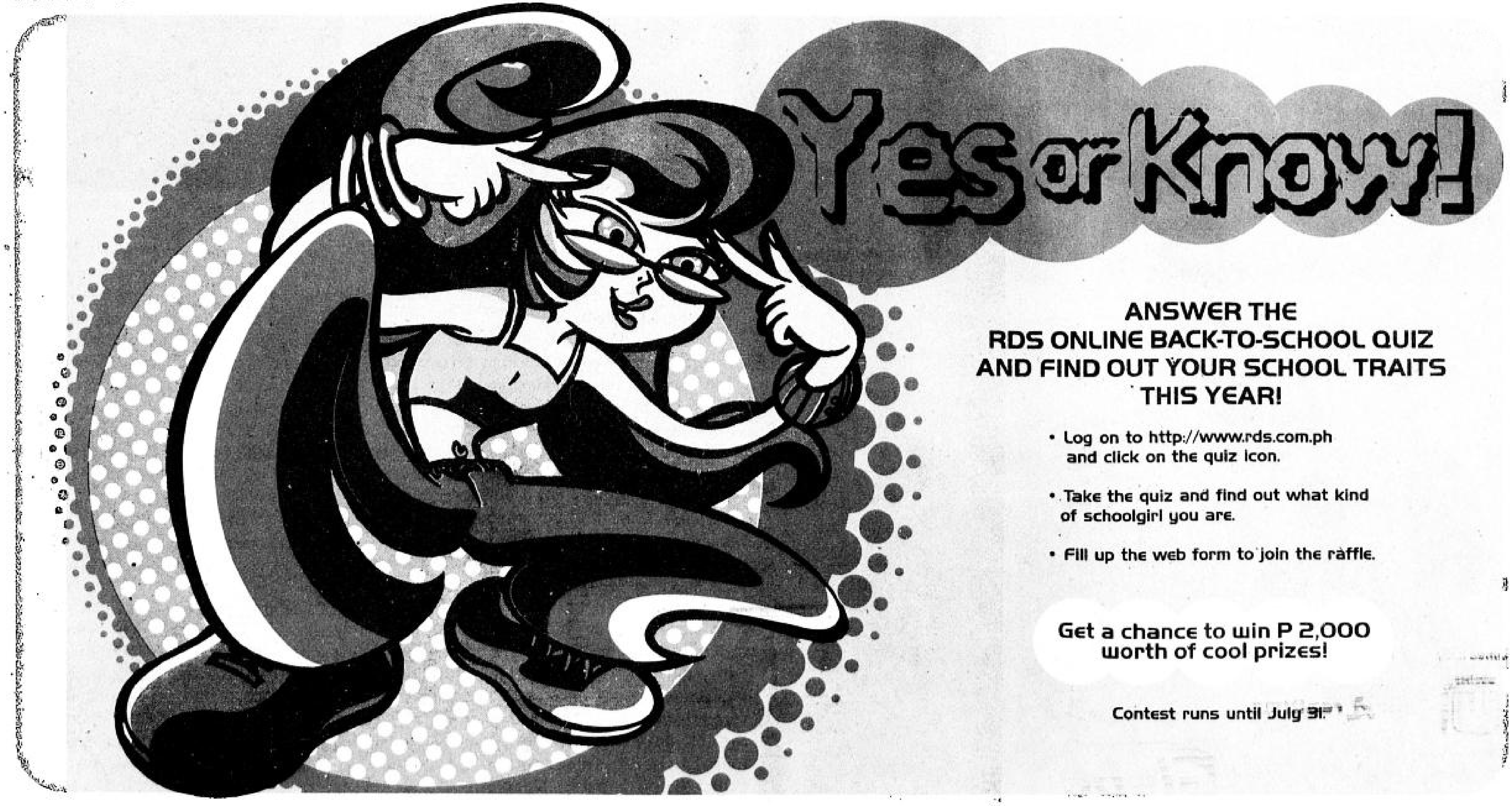


ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE



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ALABANG TOWN CENTER

TALK OF THE TOWN

THE TOWN Plaza

An oasis for shoppers

FOR BEING MORE THAN JUST A SHOPPING CENTER, THE ALABANG TOWN CENTER HAS RECEIVED THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS, THE BIGGEST TRADE ASSOCIATION OF SHOPPING CENTERS WORLDWIDE

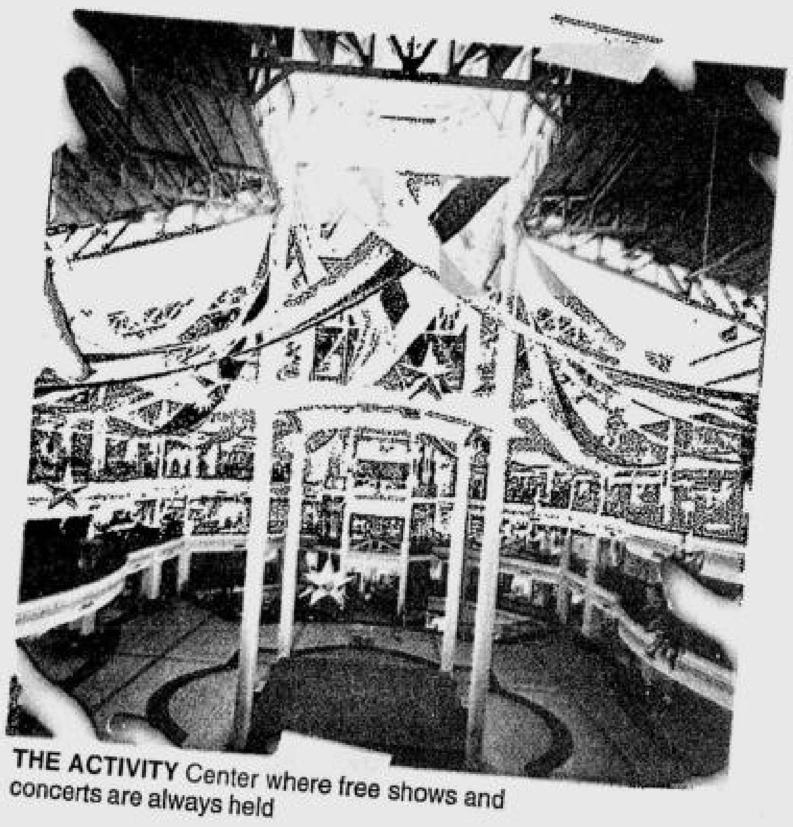
BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

ALABANG TOWN CENTER has redefined our boxed concept of a "shopping mall." For one, it's a mall that doesn't come in a "box," like those giant malls that look like cold monolith structures. When you shop in these places, you seem like almost in a hurry to go home. But not in Alabang Town Center.

Defying the structural concept of a conventional mall or shopping center, Alabang Town Center is a cluster of interconnected Mediterranean style structures where you can discover open parks, brick pavements, trees and greenery, fountains, benches, lamp posts, and colorful road signs.

Built phase by phase, Alabang Town Center has integrated both function and aesthetics in its design. The place is not just for shopping.

It's what you call a "refreshing" mall where you can go at an unhurried pace. Here, you can shop and be able to relax or read afterwards. You can hang around, wait for friends, and go for a nice afternoon tete-a-tete. While you sip coffee and refresh your eyes with the beauty all around, you can do people watching or hobnob with celebrities.

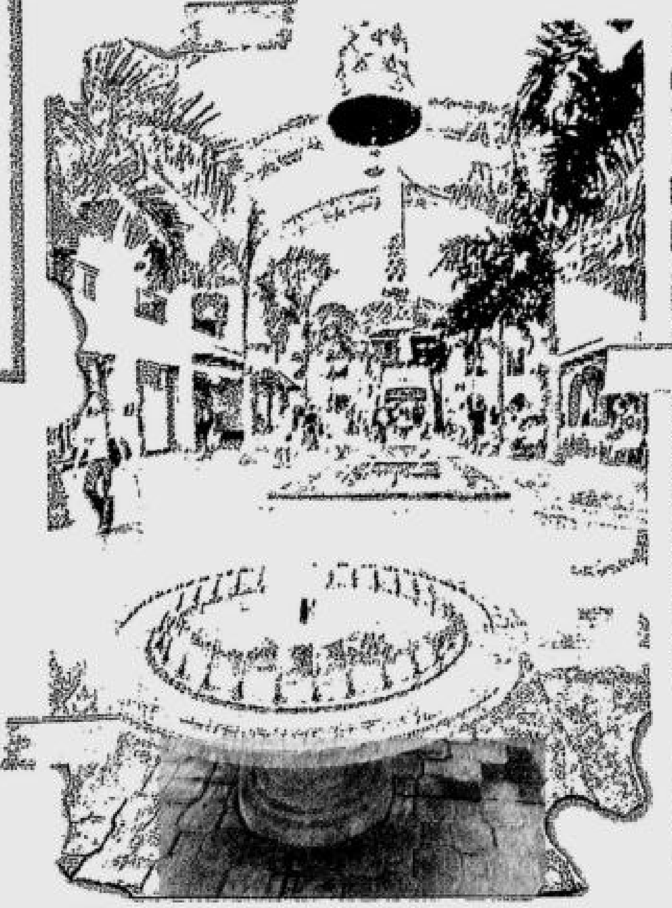


THE ACTIVITY Center where free shows and concerts are always held

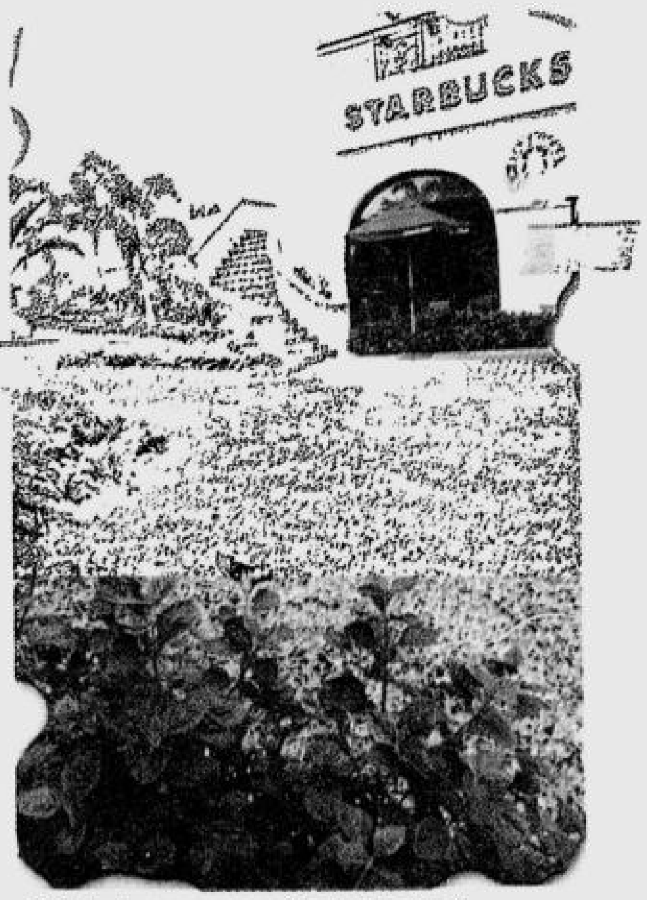
A shopping mall above the rest. Congratulations to Alabang Town Center for being chosen as one of the most beautiful malls in the world!

It's a mall where you can be entertained, either at the Cinema or in the free concerts held at the open courtyards or Activity Center. It's a mall for bargain hunters as well as those who seek antiques or elegant and pricey items. It's the mall for the fashion-conscious, trendy housewives, and those who wish to get a load of the latest designer items.

It's a mall for teenagers and yuppies hungry for nightlife and craving for the night mood of Remedios Circle. It's a mall for hobbyists and car enthusiasts who seek gadgets and machines to tinker and tangle with.



BRICK-PAVED Cortes de las Palmas



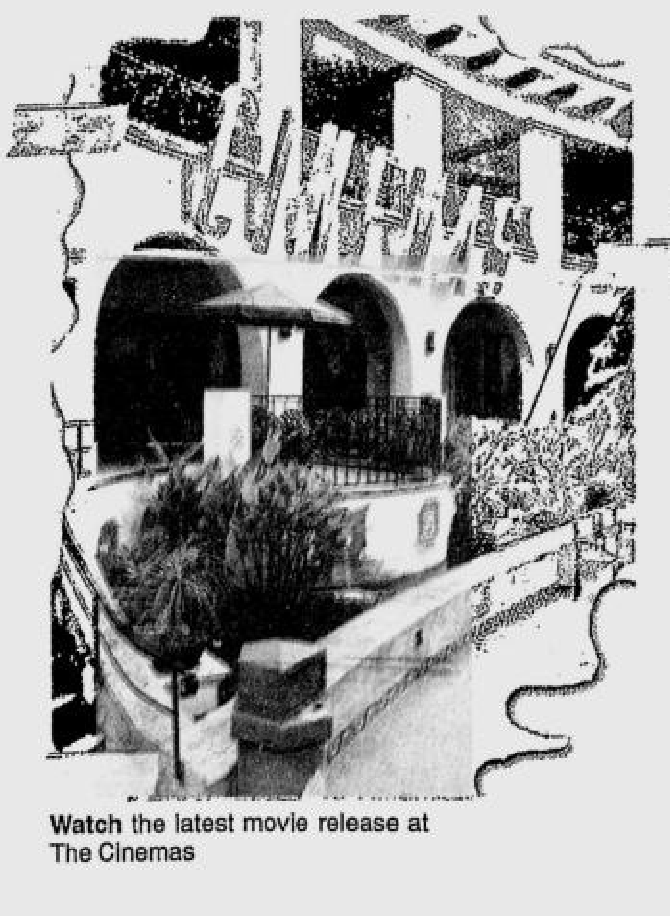
ALL that greenery near Starbucks outlet

THE PROMENADE, a "streetcafe" indoors

It's a mall for the green thumbs and environment-concerned people who want fresh air and nice parks where they can bring children and old folks for some sunshine. In fact, this is the only mall where you can observe a bird drink from a fountain.

For being more than a shopping center but an "oasis" for people from all walks of life, the Alabang Town Center has received an award of excellence from the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), the biggest trade association of shopping centers worldwide. (The ICSC has over 39,000 members in 77 countries worldwide.)

In December, the ICSC conducted an international competition for shopping centers called the 2001 International Design and Development Awards Program. Alabang Town Center has won over other entries, getting the award for renovation or expansion of an existing site. It is the only Asian shopping center that won in this category.



Watch the latest movie release at The Cinemas

INVITING cafes and restaurants abound

As an ICSC awardee, Alabang Town Center will be featured in a book called "Winning Shopping Center Designs," a prestigious resource book published annually to showcase the best shopping centers worldwide.

The 'lifestyle center' for the community

The Alabang Town Center has been at the heart of a burgeoning business park and a residential community. It was once a just a commercial strip comprised of a supermarket and two cinemas. In 1997, it was renovated to cater to the demands of the growing community around it.

"Alabang Town Center is not just a mall, it is a lifestyle center," says Miriam Katigbak, Ayala Land Inc. vice president and commercial centers group head. "It doesn't just serve the community. It is the community."

Residents in the tony villages have seen and have been part of the transformation of Alabang Town Center. Through the years, they have enjoyed being in the shopping center and have somewhat developed a "bond" with the places and shops they like to visit.

To frequent Alabang Town Center has become a habit to the residents. And why not? The shopping center is where they can almost completely find everything they need.

Material needs? There are the strings of shops, nicely designed and arranged according to categories. Shoe shops belong to that wing, dress shops to another strip, bookstores and gifts in another hallway, and groceries at the Makati Supermart or South Supermarket.

Looking for cars and gadgets? Check out the Motor Town and entertainment complex and the second level expansion wing. Toys for the big boys such as computers and appliances can be found in the 3rd level expansion wing. Your kids will also find the shops here interesting.

Hungry stomachs? There's the food court area called Food Choices. Well, if you want to steer away from fastfoods that serve value meals, then follow the red brick road until you enter the Cortes de las Palmas, the Town Plaza or even the new entertainment complex. Yup, these places are intertwined courtyards with transparent arched roofing, benches, live palm trees and fountains where you can toss lucky coins for a wish.

Aside from trendy shops, here you'll find restaurants that serve steaks, Mexican food, Spanish paella or whatever delicacy you're in the mood for. Seek out, too, the Promenade. The Promenade is street café situated indoors supported by large columns and some sale items strewn in the center. It is the perfect venue for coffee, quiet meetings and reunions.

Shows and music? Proceed to the Activity Center or the Town Plaza where you can chance upon a free circus show or a garden concert.

OASIS/ p. D3

An oasis for shoppers. . . (from page D2)

Solo artists Agot Isidro and Regine Velasquez, bands such as Freestyle, Side A, South Border, and Tropical Depression have already performed. This August, Kuh Ledesma and Gary V. are scheduled to perform.

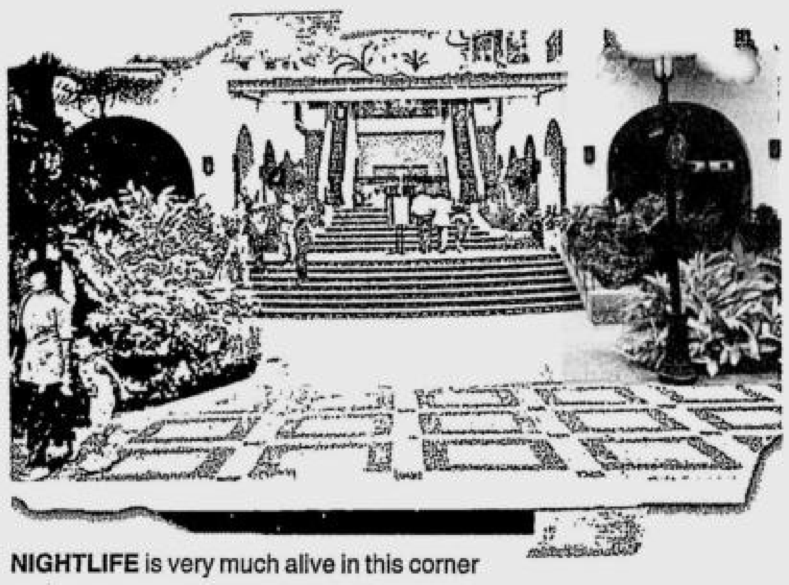
NIGHT shopping

For a nice date, check out the movies at the Cinema. If you buy two tickets, you'll get one free, plus free popcorn.

For the soul? Oh, there's a church nearby, the St Jerome Parish Church in front of the Makati Supermart. For relaxation, you could just stroll or read a favorite book in the Town Plaza. You can always try the spa at the ground level of the Promenade.

Nightlife? Cafes, bars and restaurants, as well as shops located in the Corte de las Palmas and Town Plaza are open till the wee hours of the morning to welcome night denizens who love to party, drink, smoke, gossip or just hang around.

For the latest celebrity gossip? Seen at the Promenade: so and so actress now hangs out with so and so businessman—there's more to tell, but there's little space here. Just go to Alabang Town Center and experience the shopping difference.



NIGHTLIFE is very much alive in this corner

The Town Guide

LARA CROFT recently made a smashing entrance at the Cinema, which is part of the **Entertainment Complex**, a place where one can indulge in high impact leisure activities such as billards, bowling, and computer games. Time Zone has an address here, as well as Lamonfood, the food joint to go to if you're on a budget.

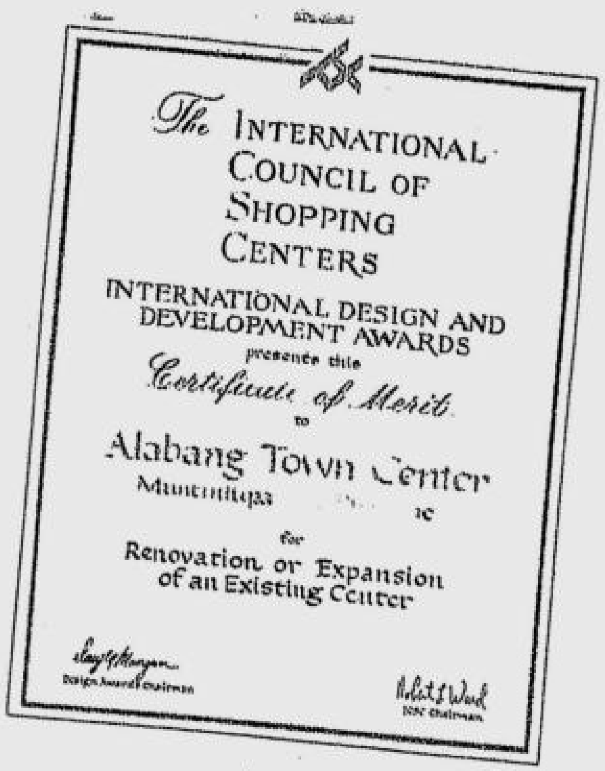
Craving for a night life and evening entertainment? Seek and you shall find plenty of bars, restaurants, coffee shops and other brightly-lit establishments at the **Cortes de las Palmas** area, an open brick colored courtyard with lots of greenery and fresh air.

Hardware, Home & Specialty Stores is an area where you'll find—not only hardware stuff—but parlors, a spa corner, fitness center and curio and knick-knack shops.

There's a **tiangge** at **Bargain Center** where one will find rows upon rows of affordable clothes and export overrun items.

For the cool and trendy stuff, check out the items displayed at the chic stores at **Fashion Strip**, where the fashion conscious, celebrities and people who would want to make sense of the latest fashion trend go to.

Parking Space isn't a problem. **It's ample and it's free!**



The INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS
INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
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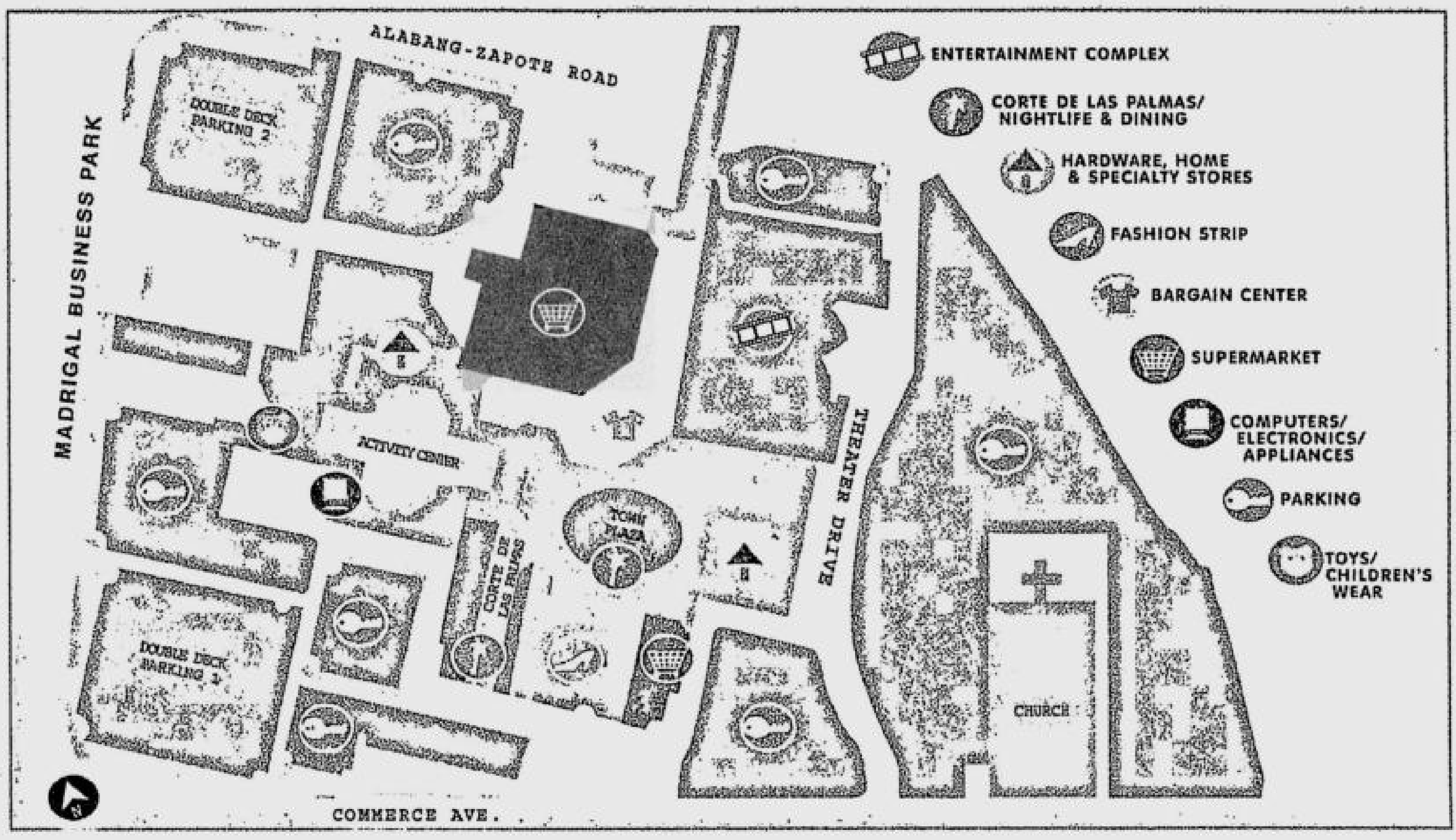
Design Award Chairman

ICSC Chairman



MOST BEAUTY CONTEST WINNERS SAY THEY WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

WE DO IT EVERYDAY.

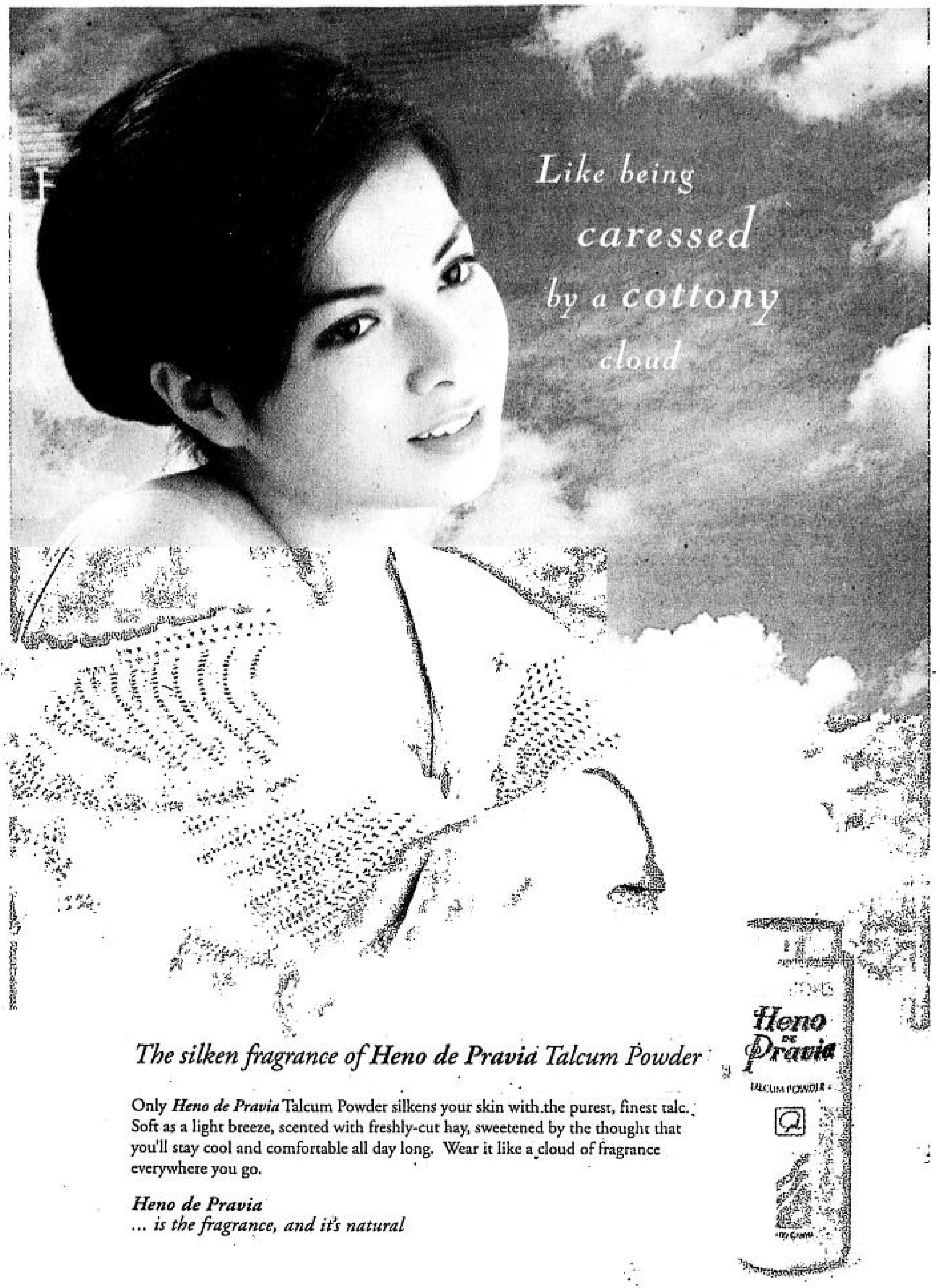
Today, shopping centers are not what they used to be — shopping centers. These are now places where everyday people do everyday things. They go there to meet, eat, drink, and (as in some cases in the cinemas) sleep. It has become a bit more personal. It has become a community.

Ever since, Alabang Town Center had this in mind. It was never a supermall, a galaxymall, or any of those big names that big malls carry. It was simply the Town. Yet, it provided all the things others had to offer. And some that they may have missed out on. A courtyard here, a restful fountain there, gently swaying palm trees everywhere. Shopping with all the extras in the truest sense.

We're flattered to be recognized as one of the best designed malls in the world. Make that, we're overjoyed (expect a sale soon). It means we're right in always giving the shopper more. That there is a place where shopping can truly be a rewarding experience. So come on over and you be the judge.

Certificate of Merit - International Council Of Shopping Centers

ALABANG TOWN CENTER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Liz Claiborne sale

COLORS are bright, shapes are classic and the fabrics provide the coolest comfort. That's how the latest collection from Liz Claiborne looks and feels. What's more, Liz Claiborne for the whole month of July has a special Bounce Back offer. For every minimum purchase, the customer will receive a Bounce Back voucher worth 25 percent which can be used on their next purchase.

Grab this chance to enjoy big savings on this season's merchandise. Liz Claiborne is located at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa.

Red sale for July

FOR THE MONTH of July, Celine shoes will hold a "Red Tag" sale starting from 20-50 percent off on all shoes, bags and RTW clothes, plus a special 10 percent discount on all new arrivals.

Schedule is: July 1-15, Shangri-La Plaza, Greenhills, Robinsons Galleria, Filinvest, SM Sucat, Glorietta; July 1-31, Escolta, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt, Tutuban Center Mall II and SM stores (except Sucat).

The science of selling fashion

(From page D1)

branding. Anyone who knows the Ilonggo designer will agree that he is one of the best resource persons on branding, given that his home designers have been featured in some of the world's biggest fairs. He has also designed products for stores like Galeries Lafayette, Neiman Marcus, Crate and Barrel, Gap and, yes, Calvin Klein himself.

In his presentation, PJ discussed the importance of branding, the different brand strategies and everything else in between. He talked about the math of equating a good design, product development and branding with sales and profit. One of the most interesting questions brought up during his talk was how designers combat the pirating of ideas and creation of cheaper imitation pieces, a prevalent practice in this era of globalization. His solution? Keep those creative juices flowing and stay ahead of competition.

Perhaps one of the most fun sessions was with Filipino-Canadian window display artist Anthony Polvorosa. A PISF lecturer and image consultant of a glossy magazine, the soft-spoken speaker gave a very informative lecture on basic window display. Did you know that, for example, the eye "reacts more to busyness than cleanliness?"

After his talk, Anthony divided everyone into groups to create an actual window display based on the concepts or fabrics given. My group, comprised of PJ, Dennis and Ramil, created a display based on shades of red—even to the extent of using the Canadian flag. Frederick and Ricci's group made a simple but straightforward creation based on a denim fabric. The group members lied down, their bodies covered with fabric and crossed their legs.

The seminar concluded with a talk on quality control by Ed Mendoza of Philippine Luen Thai Holdings Corp., one of the biggest garment manufacturers in the country today.

He started his session with an interesting test on optical illusion. "Inspecting a product creates an illusion," he said. "You think it's good, but you have to look twice to be sure."

The articulate executive who used to work for Polo Ralph Lauren then went on to discuss cutting, sewing, pressing and assembly defects.

Successful seminar

Three days was not enough to learn the craft of selling fashion but the seminar did give an insightful overview of how we can elevate local design mom-and-pop to a corporate spirit of sorts: This was why Frederick Peralta took notes like mad. He even asked advice from Claudine about his elegant eponymous logo. Tonichi brought along an old Fortune magazine article on Ralph Lauren which he passed around. And, by the time Mendoza finished his talk, Vic clamored for a technical seminar for his sewers and cutters, many of whom have become stubborn through the years when it comes to techniques. Danny dela Cuesta, who teaches at the College of St. Benilde, brought a wealth of information as well as juicy gossips which he and Ricci Lizaso shared over cafeteria lunches. But that's another story.

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com

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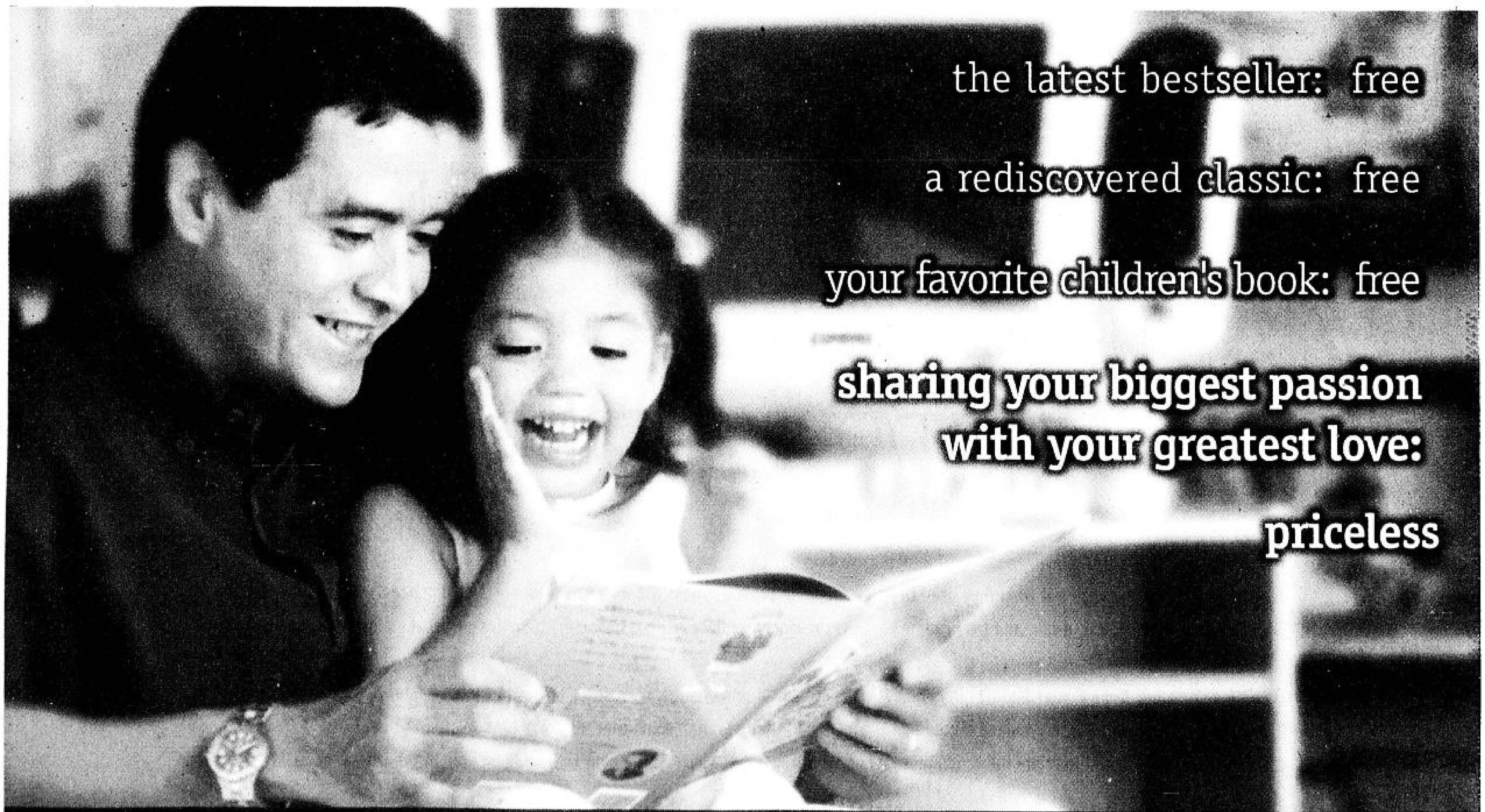
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QUILa ON tHe LOOSE!
TEQUILA

A lesson from Geny Lopez

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT'S not easy to believe that two years after he died, **Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr.**—known to the public only as a media tycoon and power figure—continues to move lives.

Last week, Thursday, on his death anniversary, his family, old friends and close corporate family offered Mass. As it was a year ago, the moment was compelling—for the man is missed so much—but private, for the family has always been private.

However, this time the Mass gave me a reason to write about it. At its end, **Marisa Lopez-Grassi**, one of Geny's daughters, did something uncharacteristic: she went to the lectern and addressed the gathering. She spoke of what she's been through the past two years—no easy public task.

Her father's death, she said, triggered her depression. This bout led her to her work among the dying. Then she spoke of her relationship with her dad and

A LESSON/ p.E6

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There will be 5 lucky Check-Free Payments winners in the Grand Draw on August 24, 2001.

1. The promo is open to all existing BPI, BPI Family Bank and BPI Direct ATM cardholders with at least one valid Check-Free Payments reference number (excluding BPI, BPI Family Bank and/or BPI Direct accounts as reference numbers) from June 18 to August 17, 2001. If you still don't have an Express Teller account, open one now and make sure to enroll in Check-Free Payments.
2. A computer-generated raffle number will be assigned for each Express Teller card number enrolled in Check-Free Payments which will be drawn at the end of the promo period. To qualify, you must have a minimum total payment amount of P500.00 within the promo period.
3. Just pay your bills from any of the more than 100 merchants through the Express Teller ATM, Express Phone or BPI Express Online.
4. To determine the cash prize, all payments made within the promo period shall be computed (excluding inter-account payments).
5. There will be five (5) winners. Each winner shall receive a minimum cash prize of P20,000.00 and a maximum of P100,000.00.

   In cases where the cardholder whose computed total payments are below P20,000, he/she will receive P20,000. And if he/she paid more than P100,000, he/she will receive P100,000. Bonus cash prizes will be computed separately.
6. **Bonus Cash Prizes: An additional P10,000.00 will be given to the winner if he/she meets any of the following conditions during the promo period:
   - Enrolled in Express Bills and/or paid at least once through BPI Express Online
   - Enrolled a new or additional reference number and paid this reference number during the promo period
   - Has at least five reference numbers enrolled (excluding BPI, BPI Family Bank and/or BPI Direct accounts)
7. The draw will be held at 10:00 AM at the BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City on August 24, 2001. A DTI representative will be invited to witness the draw.
8. A depositor can win only once during the draw. If two or more of your accounts are drawn, the account with the higher cash prize will be declared as the winning account.
9. Winners will be notified by registered mail. A winner's ad shall be published in at least one major newspaper. Winners should agree to have their names and/or photographs published.
10. Prizes are tax-free and shall be credited to the winner's Express Teller account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
11. All employees of the BPI Unibank, Image Dimensions, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
12. All accounts closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation, garnished on or before the draw date and all FCDU, government, corporate and non-individual accounts (including EPS merchants) are likewise disqualified.
13. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with concurrence of DTI, is considered final.

PAY CHECK-FREE THROUGH

Express Teller ATM
Express Phone 89-100
Express Online www.bpiexpressonline.com

* For a complete list of merchants, please call 89-100. Dial 0 to speak to a phonebanker.

Plus a bonus cash prize of ₱10,000 for new Check-Free enrollees**
Enroll now!
CALL 89-100.

150 YEARS

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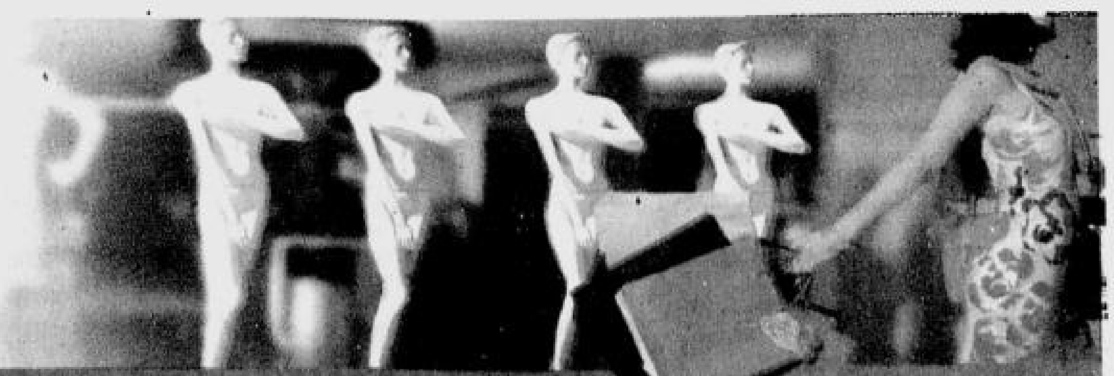
A tradition of leadership

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1856 Series of 2001

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU



Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!

Discoveries we like to watch

GRACE Tagle models Bulgari's B. Zero1 jewelry.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

A STUNNING 16-year-old high school student and a brown-skinned former bartender were proclaimed Top Model Discoveries in the grand finals of the Bodyshots 2001 held at the University Theater of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City last June 30. The two-hour pageant was the exciting climax of the search for bright and promising ramp stars conducted by the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines since 1986.

This year's 30 candidates, divided into 15 men and 15 women, were presented in a spectacular fashion parade directed by Joey Espino Jr. of Runway Production. They modeled clothes from Avon Fashions, Bench and Walker Inter-Fashions, casual outfits from Naf Naf, Esprit, Sisley, U2 and British India, all from Cinderella, swimwear by Roland Lirio, Richard Papa and Johnny Abad and formal clothes by FDAP members.

The top winner in the female category is Michelle Shulte, a student at the exclusive Marymount School. Standing 5'9" and measuring 32"-24"-34.5", the statuesque teenager bested 14 other female contestants. The grand winner in the male division is 22-year-old Lauren Novero, 5'11", who is already a budding commercial model.

The other male finalists were Jennifer McDonald, 21, from Florida, USA; Bambi Abdulsani, 23, from Davao; Amy Verbo, 19, from Bicol; and Joyce Ortega, 17, from Toronto, Canada. The other male finalists were Senen Dizon, 20, from Lipa City; Luke Mucklin, 17, from England; Solomon Glass, 22, from Cebu City; and Zanjoe Marudo, 18, from Batangas.

Shulte and Novero were the unanimous choices of the board of judges headed by fashion directors Ogee Atos and Ariel Lozada. Both were adjudged Best in Runway and Best in Swimwear. Shulte also won as Avon Woman, Miss Facial Care Centre and Lady Eagle Point Resort, while Novero was picked as the Walker Man.

Winners of the other special awards were Norwin Crespo (Mr. Las Palmas, Mr. TAC Tours and Compass Internet Voters' Choice-Male), Nikki Meneses (Miss Las Palmas), Shella Peters (Miss TAC Tours), Senen Dizon (Lord Eagle Point Resort), Luke Mucklin and Ardel de Jesus (Country Waffles Image Boy and Girl), Archie Bautista (Mr. Friendship), Jennifer McDonald (Most Photogenic-Female and Miss Marie France Bodyline), Jonathan Camara (Most Photogenic-Male) and Paula White (Compass Internet Voters' Choice-Female). The top winners received cash prizes, wardrobe from FDAP member-designers and best of all, a bright and promising career as professional fashion and commercial models.

Bulgari launch

LEAVE it to Bulgari to launch a new collection in style. Last Thursday, the renowned luxury brand presented its B.Zero1 jewelry line and Logomania 2001 leathergoods collection at a '70s-inspired shindig. For the event, Bulgari's main showroom at 6750 Ayala Avenue was transformed into an updated Studio 54, the legendary Manhattan disco frequented by pop icons like Andy Warhol and Liza Minnelli.

The outer corridors of the swank building were entirely covered with white canvas and cooled by giant mobile air-conditioning machines. A Bulgari tent was pitched at the entrance, guarded by beefy, bouncer-type hunks. After passing through the tent's crystal bead curtains, the guests were met by loud and familiar sounds from the '70s.

Bulgari's main man in Manila, Mario Katigbak, together with company execs from Singapore—PR manager for Asia-Pacific Asha Langdown, wholesale manager Wong Wei Ling and marketing manager Christopher Lim—welcomed a blizzard of namedroppables like Lizzie Zobel, Anton Huang, Louie Ysmael, Joe Zubiri, Maurice Arcache, Rico Tantoco, Freddie Panicucci, Nini Licaros, Criselda Lontok, Rupert Jacinto and banker Nympha Yatco.

To the groovy beat of '70s music, models paraded in sexy solid shift dresses, wearing the stunning new jewelry and accessories from Bulgari. The Logomania scarves were worn not only as headpieces, but also as bandeaux and pareos. An eye-catching and witty touch, if I may say. The Logomania collection of scarves and bags are made of the most precious silk and finest capretto leather, mixed together to create a dramatic interplay of colors. Picture violet with pink and yellow, or black with white and orange. Interesting!

Splendid were the B.Zero1 pendants, rings and bracelets in white and yellow gold. The rings come in single; double and multiple bands. The fun concept running through this versatile design makes them perfect jewelry accents.

Capping the fabulous theme launch was the Mediterranean cocktail buffet whipped up by Philip Goulding, the innovative and, yes, gorgeous chef at Sheila Romero's tony Azzuro Restaurant in Glorietta 4. Further hyping the mood was the bubbly provided by Premier Wines. Chivas Regal, Merlot Red and Chablis White simply overflowed!

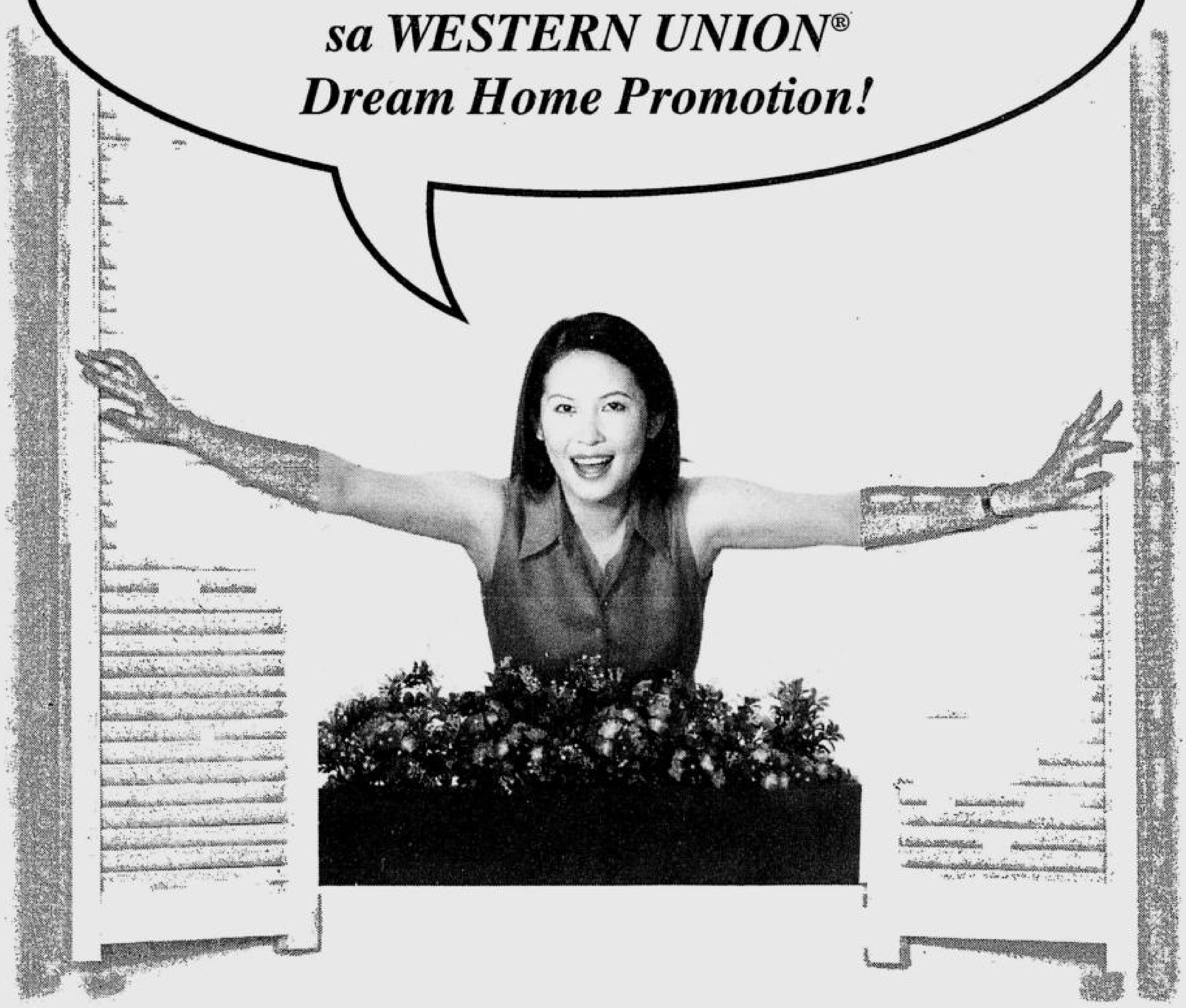
Kudos to Zenas Pineda of Rustan's Flower Shop for the sensational visual interiors, Emphasis Salon at Rockwell Center for the models' makeover and Larrie Quesada for the face paintings on the Azzuro waiters. The Logomania and B.Zero1 collections are available at the Bulgari showroom at 6750 Ayala Avenue and at the Bulgari Watch Corners in the Silver Vault section of Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Check them out!

BODYSHOT winners Michelle Shulte and Lauren Novero

FREDDIE Panicucci and Mario Katigbak of Bulgari

LEICA Carpo, Tim Yap and Tessa Valdes sport the '70s look for Bulgari launch

Pwede kang maging bonggang owner ng
BRAND NEW HOUSE & LOT...
sa WESTERN UNION®
Dream Home Promotion!



Pwedeng manalo ng brand new house and lot sa WESTERN UNION® Dream Home Promotion!

- Kung ikaw ay Filipino citizen of legal age, maaari mo nang kunin ang iyong WESTERN UNION® Pass Book sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila.
- Bawat tatlong buwan (hanggang February 2002), mamimigay kami ng WESTERN UNION® DREAM HOME!
- Sa bawat 3 qualifying international money transfers na iyong tatanggapin mula sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila, may makukuha kang free gift mula sa Western Union.

Per DTI NCR permit no. [illegible] series of 2001

WESTERN UNION MONEY TRANSFER

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW

1. Ang Raffle Promo ay magsisimula sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
2. Sa unang pagtanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
3. Sa bawat pagtanggap nila ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
4. Kapag may tatlong stickers na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating WU agent sa Metro Manila ay papapuntahin sila sa fulfillment centers para ibigay ang kanilang Pass Book.
5. Sa fulfillment center ay pupunitin ang kalahating pahina ng passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffle coupon ay isosoli sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, K-wallets, T-shirts o phonebook).
6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
7. Di maaaring ilipat ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (halimbawa: hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-isang sticker lamang).
8. Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakumpleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
9. Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maghulog ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
10. Kapag ito ay di umabot, ang validated certificate ay isasali sa susunod na raffle draw.
11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:

    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12: 00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SFW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
20. Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
21. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

Per DTI permit no. 0669, series of 2001

WESTERN UNION | MONEY TRANSFER
The fastest way to send and receive money worldwide.™

Tinette Puyat gives her salon a new look

By Margie T. Estrella

THE OWNER and prime mover

SPANKING interiors by Jorge Yulo

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

ALTHOUGH Tinette & Co. Salon sports a new look, it still boasts of the same great service its clients have grown to be familiar with.

With years of experience and a brand-new marriage, Tinette Puyat reveals what it takes to run a salon, and forecasts the upcoming hair trends of the season.

With so many hair salons around, competition can be rather stiff.

Salons have to come up with different ways to make their salon stand out from the rest of pack. With the help of architect Jorge Yulo, the salon evokes a modern yet minimalist setting. There are also two massage rooms for those who want more than just a typical haircut as well as a separate room complete with a shampoo station that ensures total privacy from pre- to post-haircut or color.

Maintaining quality

Tinette Puyat was once Tinette Ozamis who spent 10 hours a day in her salon up until a year and a half ago when, at 35 years old, she became the happily married Tinette Puyat. Now she spends about eight hours a day to make room for her new responsibilities such as making the grocery list and keeping other household matters in check.

Luckily, she and her husband work similar hours so they still get to spend time together despite their busy schedules. But spending most of her day at work enables her to keep her salon in tip-top condition and her clients happy.

Some years back, when the economy was on the upswing, there were many more functions being attended to and parties being thrown. Because of all the special occasions happening across the country, there were more than enough people going to salons to have their hair styled, makeup applied and other services that went beyond the regular trim.

Now that the economy is suffering due to the Philippines' political climate, one would think Puyat's salon is also having difficulty keeping a steady clientele. Surprisingly enough, the salon isn't feeling the "ouch" of the economy.

Why is this so? Quality control and familiarity are the two traits that make Tinette & Co. one of the more successful salons.

Tinette herself is a hairstylist, having trained under the Vidal Sassoon hair academy. Being both stylist and owner allows her to better train her staff since she can easily see the flaws of how someone's hair is being cut. It isn't enough to have good management skills, because a salon is judged mainly on how good or bad the service of the salon is.

Secondly, most of the clientele of Tinette & Co. are comfortable with the salon's staff due to the slow turnover of new employees.

The staff is almost like a second family due to their long-term employment with the salon. There's something to be said about knowing what to expect from a familiar stylist. There are no baffled bangs, no experimental mishaps. For those who want something new, they can ask their stylist for advice without wondering if she just wants to use their head as a guinea pig. The hairstylists at the salon are like trusted friends.

For all ages

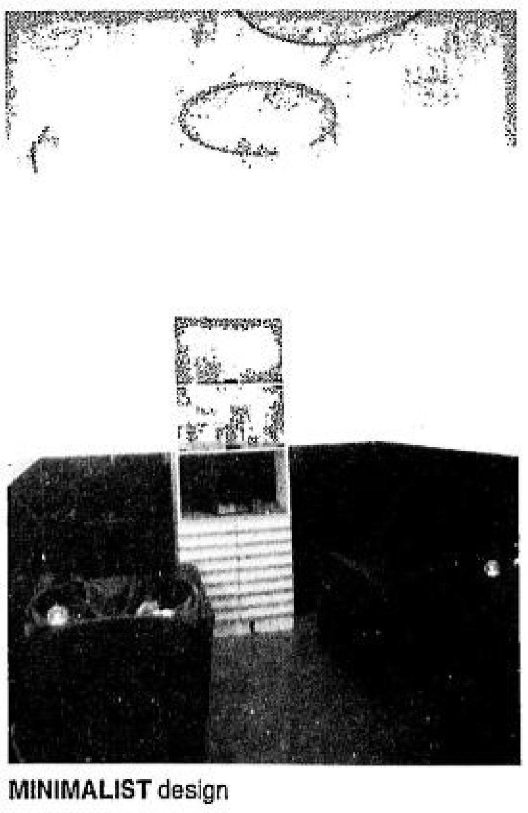
There is no particular age bracket that dominates the salon's client roster. Tinette & Co. gets its share of students, business executives and retirees. According to Puyat, each group has a particular type of hairstyle that it wants. For instance, the students are always looking in magazines for inspiration, while business executives tend to opt for a more conservative bob or long layered cut. Of course, there will always be the older group who prefer the traditional coiffure.

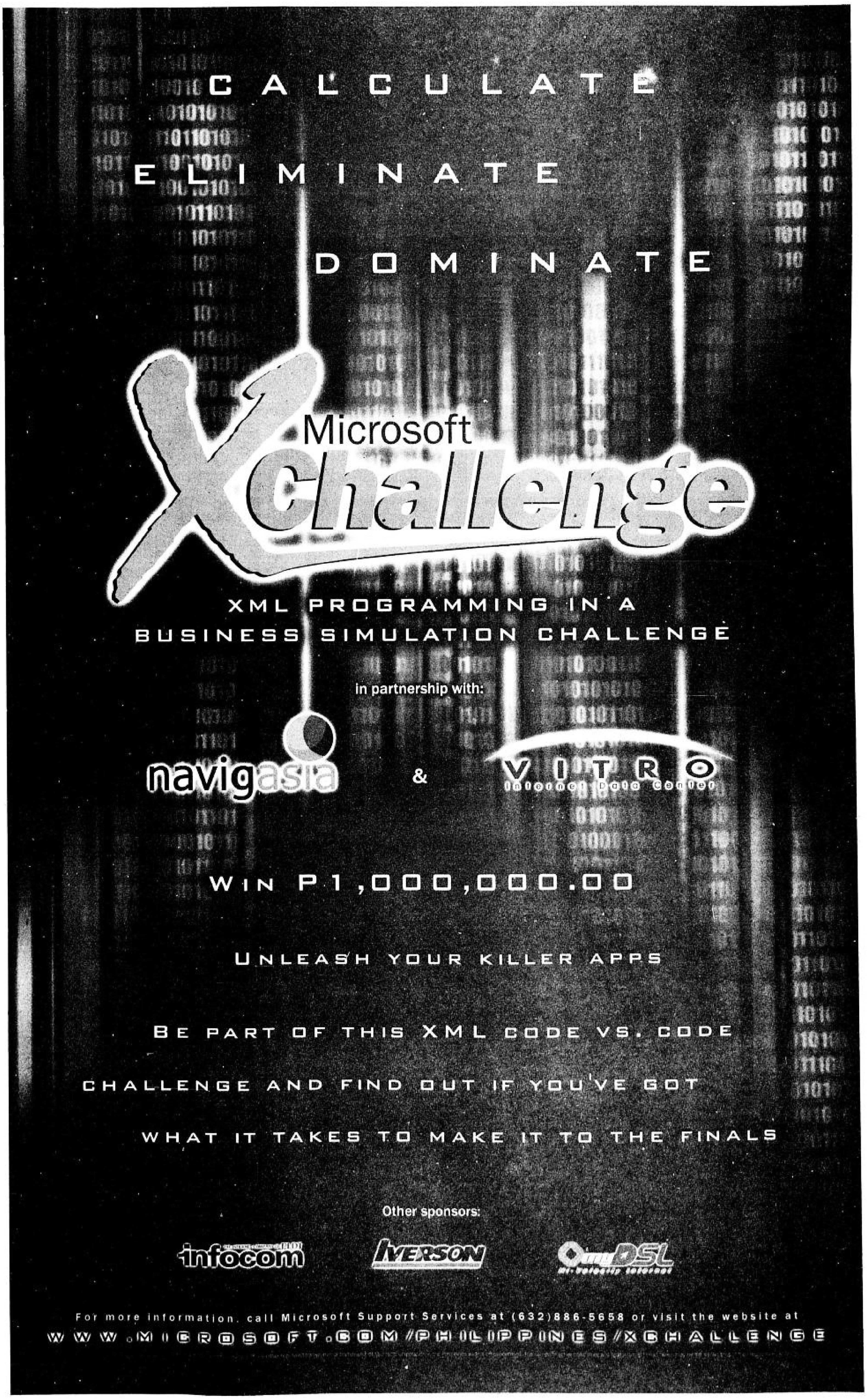
The salon is known for hair coloring. Dyeing hair is one thing, finding and mixing the right shade is another matter altogether. Tinette is an expert when it comes to hair color and pays attention to her customers' hair texture and skin tone before she even considers coloring their hair. Formulating the correct color takes a lot of know-how. Therefore the senior stylists are the only ones who are allowed to both cut and color hair.

Coloring hair is a great way to change the way hair looks without having to cut it. The change can be minor or major, depending on what color or colors one chooses. Puyat declares hair color as the latest hair accessory. It's so easy to change hair color without making a commitment.

There are different types of formulas, from temporary to semi-permanent to permanent so one can get a temporary color before plunging into getting one that'll stay in for good. Puyat wishes that more people would give coloring hair a chance, not only through subtle highlights but something more striking such as coloring one or two streaks of hair with a loud color. She sees a transition from gold-toned hair color to the new softer reds and copper tones. Given that Asian hair is more often than not just different shades of brown and black, it would be much more interesting to add a new hue to the usual Asian spectrum of hair color.

Call Tinette & Co. Salon at 893-3091 to -94


MINIMALIST design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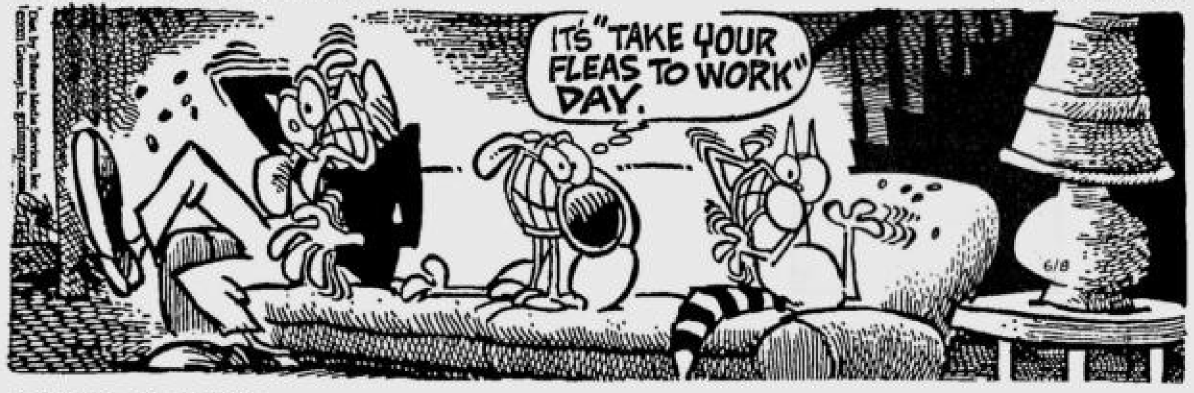
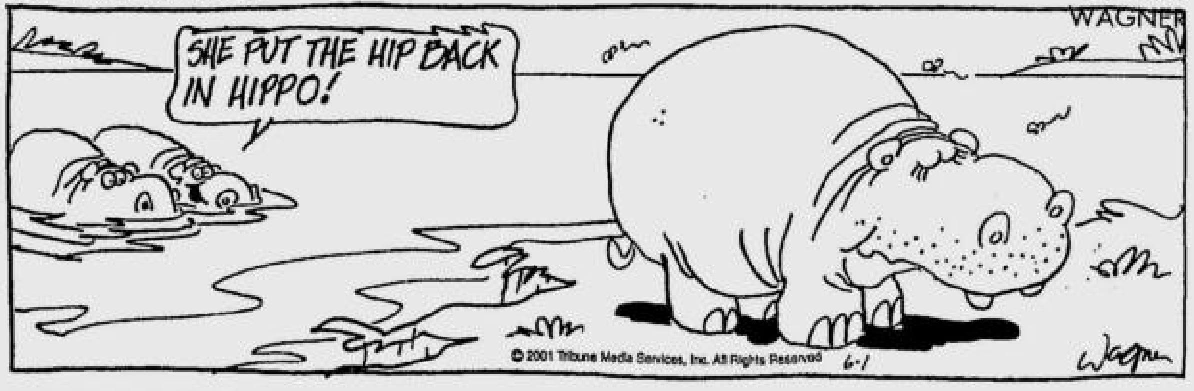
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


IT'S "TAKE YOUR FLEAS TO WORK" DAY.
6/8

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SHE PUT THE HIP BACK IN HIPPO!
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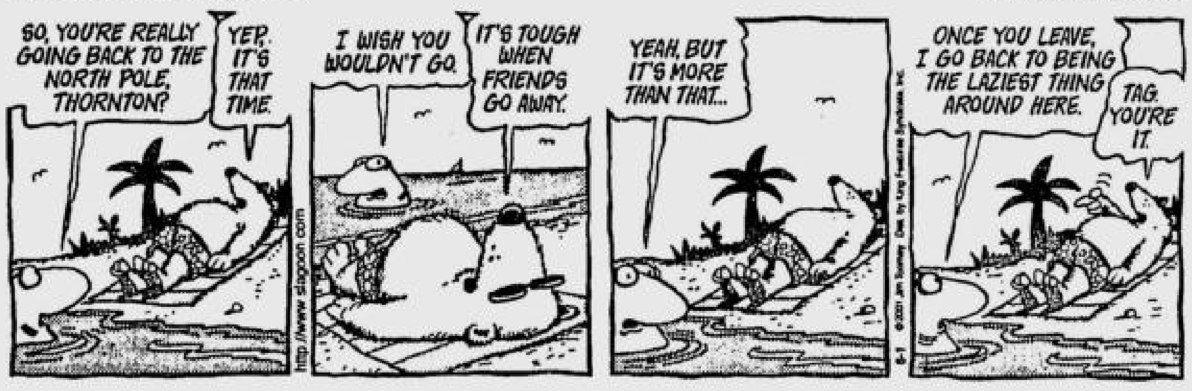
6-1
Wagner

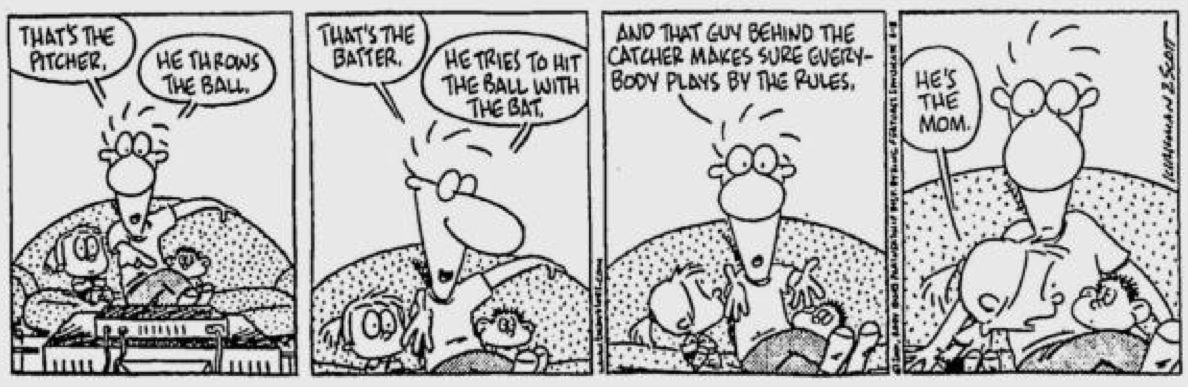
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, YOU'RE REALLY GOING BACK TO THE NORTH POLE, THORNTON?
YEP. IT'S THAT TIME.
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T GO.
IT'S TOUGH WHEN FRIENDS GO AWAY.
YEAH, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT...
ONCE YOU LEAVE, I GO BACK TO BEING THE LAZIEST THING AROUND HERE.
TAG. YOU'RE IT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S THE PITCHER.
HE THROWS THE BALL.
THAT'S THE BATTER.
HE TRIES TO HIT THE BALL WITH THE BAT.
AND THAT GUY BEHIND THE CATCHER MAKES SURE EVERYBODY PLAYS BY THE RULES.
HE'S THE MOM.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Della Reese, Merv Griffin, Nancy Reagan, Sylvester Stallone, Janet Leigh, Kenny G

Happy Birthday: You will be quick to make your moves and eager to reach your destination. You will be admired by those watching from the sidelines for your intense dedication and belief in your pursuits and in yourself. You can have it all if you concentrate on what you want to accomplish. Your numbers: 15, 24, 27, 29, 36, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Unexpected changes in your location are apparent. Travel will be exciting. Friendships will be terminated quickly if disappointments occur.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't believe everything you hear. You will enjoy group involvements, but unfortunately so will a lot of individuals who have escapist tendencies. Choose friends carefully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let anyone talk you into gambling. You have far better things to spend money on. Secret meetings will be intriguing, but they could lead down a dubious avenue.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Difficulties with relationships will prevail if you have neglected your domestic situation or tried to control your mate. Outbursts can be expected unless you compromise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may not have all the information necessary to complete your projects. Poor directions will make it difficult to reach your destination. Compensate by doing a little research on your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in hobbies or creative endeavors. The possibility of doing things with children will be favorable and enlightening. Travel or group outings will be fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic investments will be lucrative today; however, you will get opposition from your partner. Work quietly making improvements around the house, and avoid being forced into an argument that will leave you feeling low.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect to be slightly emotional regarding your friends. You can't take on their responsibilities, but you can offer sound advice and solutions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let family and friends put unrealistic financial demands on you. Make your own decisions about what you do with your cash.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be moody if you don't plan your day carefully. It's time to spend some time improving your looks and image. You will have more confidence if you feel good about yourself.

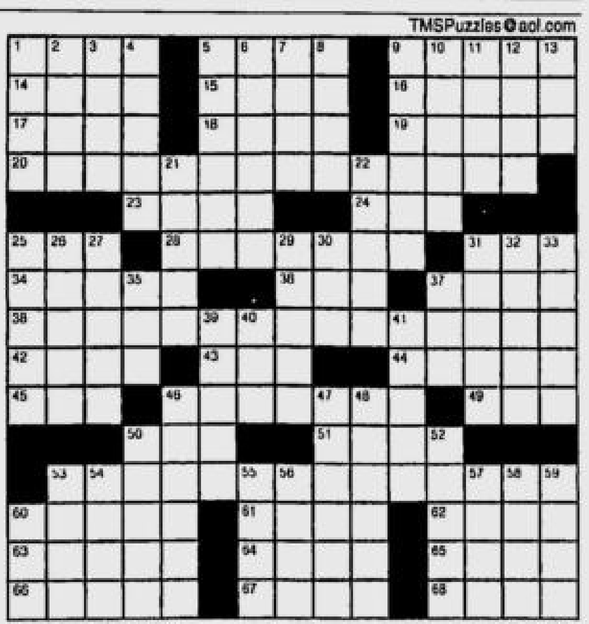
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to make changes that will make your surroundings more inviting and comfortable. After all, if you want to entice people over, you have to supply the incentives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make a point if you're willing to stick up for the underdog. You'll also attract some interesting love connections due to your empathetic nature. Stand up for your beliefs.

Birthday Baby: You are caring, charismatic and compassionate. You have a built-in sense of justice and fair play and will always do what's best. You know exactly how to get your own way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/21/01

ACROSS
1 Booty
5 Ticket piece
9 Evade
14 Raise one's voice
15 Leaning Tower city
16 Roof support
17 W. alliance
18 Authentic
19 Christmas songs
20 Hopeful sign?
23 Light carriage
24 Cries of surprise
25 Shoofly __
28 In the best of worlds
31 Silent
34 Fill with wonder
36 Extravagant scarf
37 Poet Van Duyn
38 Cheerful sign?
42 Leak slowly
43 Comic Costello
44 __ of Scilly
45 Pipe elbow
46 Helped with a heist
49 Citrus cooler
50 Simpson trial judge
51 March middle
53 Regretful sign?
60 Shinto shrine gateway
61 Mocking remark
62 Pocket billiards
63 Green-card holder
64 Arab ruler
65 Senior celebration
66 Approaches
67 Fixes in position
68 Little woofs

DOWN
1 Out of __ (discordant)
2 Gradual diminution
3 Glee club member
4 Paint finish
5 Propagate
6 Color fabric, '60s-style
7 Armed services grp.
8 Indonesian island
9 Small boat
10 Certain reeds
11 Bucks, perhaps
12 Dames
13 Printer's measures
21 Was skittish
22 Pitcher Ryan
25 Hesitate
26 Drive forward
27 Stand for Grandma Moses
29 More or less
30 Toward bottom
31 Dough
32 Single
33 Preacher's house
35 Go lickety-split
37 "__ Robinson"
39 Nudge
40 Female rabbit
41 Cuba's Castro
46 Guitarist Chet
47 Morsel
48 Lawn trimmers
50 More chilly
52 Maudlin
53 Tree trunk
54 Opera melody
55 Matures
56 "The __ of the Ancient Mariner"
57 Writer Ephron
58 Chicken quarters
59 Hardwood trees
60 Earth tone

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	A	R	T	R	E	K	■	A	R	O	M	A	S
L	I	V	E	W	I	R	E	■	B	E	I	R	U	T
A	R	I	Z	O	N	A	N	■	S	A	L	U	T	E
B	E	S	O	T	S	■	■	F	I	R	■	N	O	V
■	■	■	N	I	E	L	S	O	N	■	L	I	M	E
R	E	H	E	M	■	A	L	O	T	■	I	V	A	N
E	R	A	S	E	■	M	Y	T	H	■	P	E	T	S
V	A	N	■	S	A	P	■	N	E	T	■	R	I	O
I	D	O	L	■	P	O	L	O	■	A	R	S	O	N
V	I	V	A	■	P	O	E	T	■	K	E	E	N	S
I	C	E	D	■	E	N	D	E	M	I	C	■	■	■
F	A	R	■	G	A	S	■	■	I	N	T	R	O	S
I	B	I	S	E	S	■	M	A	N	G	I	O	N	E
E	L	A	I	N	E	■	A	R	T	I	F	I	C	E
D	E	N	T	E	D	■	R	E	S	T	Y	L	E	D

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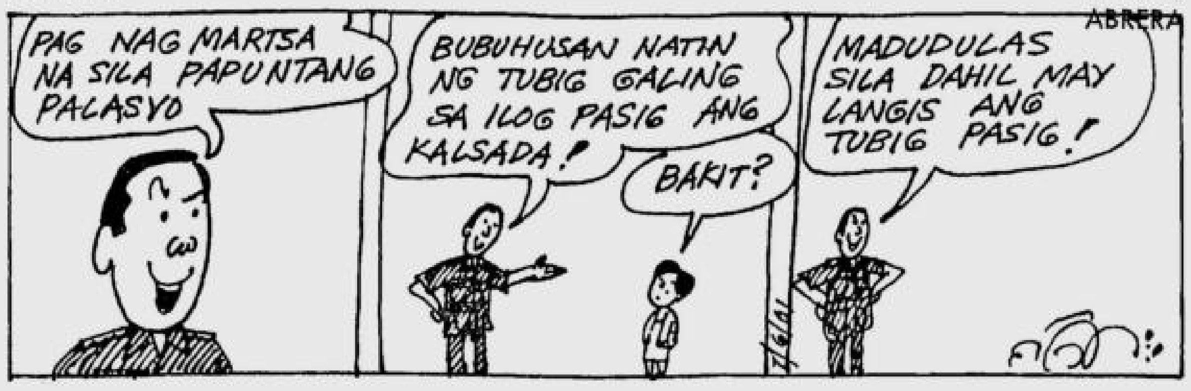
5/21/01

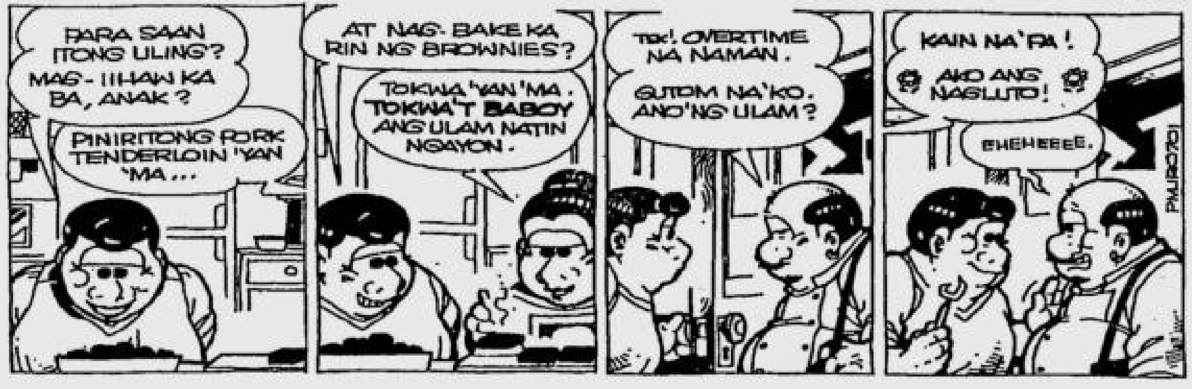
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG NAG MARTSA NA SILA PAPUNTANG PALASYO
BUBUHUSAN NATIN NG TUBIG GALING SA ILOG PASIG ANG KALSADA!
BAKIT?
MADUDULAS SILA DAHIL MAY LANGIS ANG TUBIG PASIG!
7/6/01

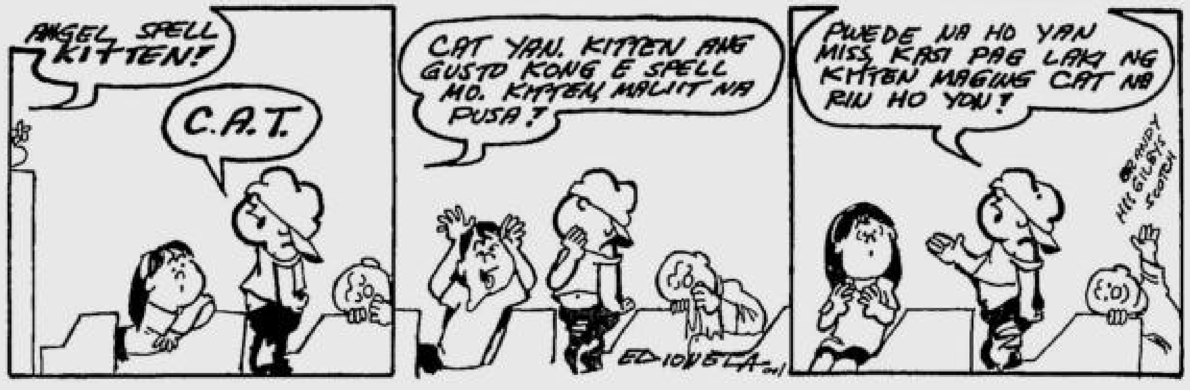
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PARA SAAN ITONG ULING? MAG-IIHAW KA BA, ANAK?
PINIRITONG PORK TENDERLOIN 'YAN 'MA...
AT NAG-BAKE KA RIN NG BROWNIES?
TOKWA 'YAN 'MA. TOKWA'T BABOY ANG ULAM NATIN NGAYON.
TSK! OVERTIME NA NAMAN.
GUTOM NA'KO. ANO'NG ULAM?
KAIN NA 'PA!
AKO ANG NAGLUTO!
EHEHEEEE.
PMJR0701

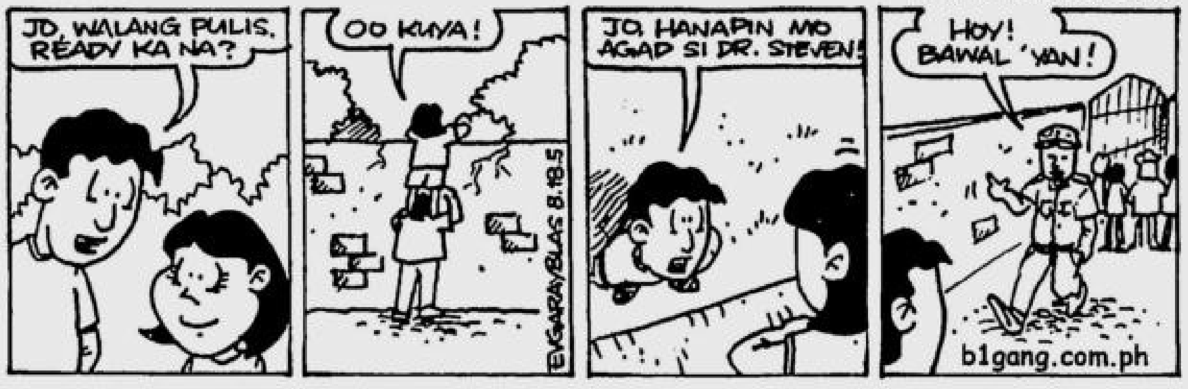
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL SPELL KITTEN!
C.A.T.
CAT YAN. KITTEN ANG GUSTO KONG E SPELL MO. KITTEN, MALIIT NA PUSA?
PWEDE NA HO YAN MISS, KASI PAG LAKI NG KITTEN MAGING CAT NA RIN HO YON!
ED-IONELA

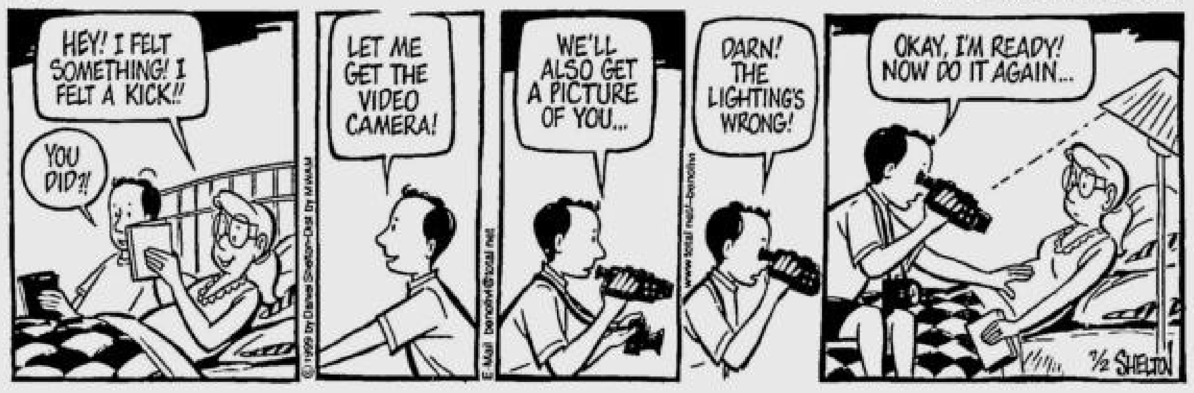
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


JO, WALANG PULIS. READY KA NA?
OO KUYA!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.18.5
JO, HANAPIN MO AGAD SI DR. STEVEN!
HOY! BAWAL 'YAN!
b1gang.com.ph

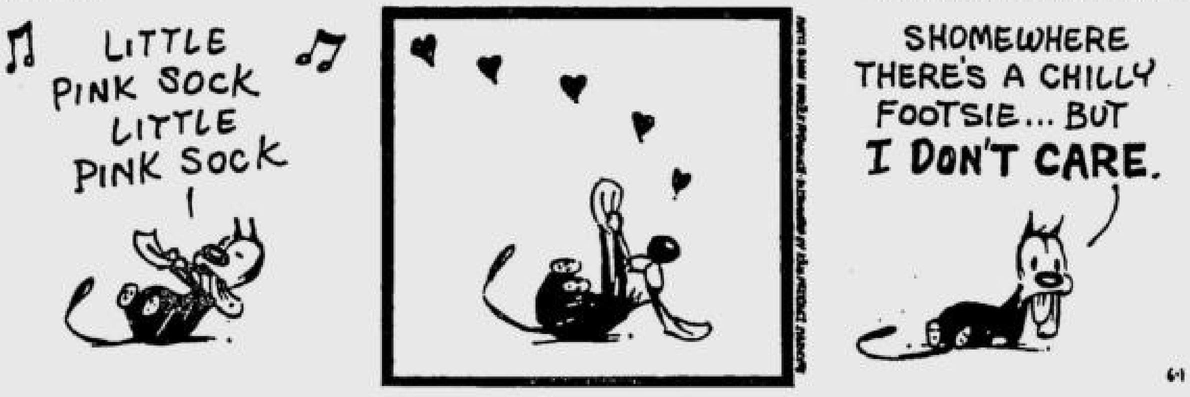
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY! I FELT SOMETHING! I FELT A KICK!!
YOU DID?!
LET ME GET THE VIDEO CAMERA!
WE'LL ALSO GET A PICTURE OF YOU...
DARN! THE LIGHTING'S WRONG!
OKAY, I'M READY! NOW DO IT AGAIN...
7/2 SHELTON

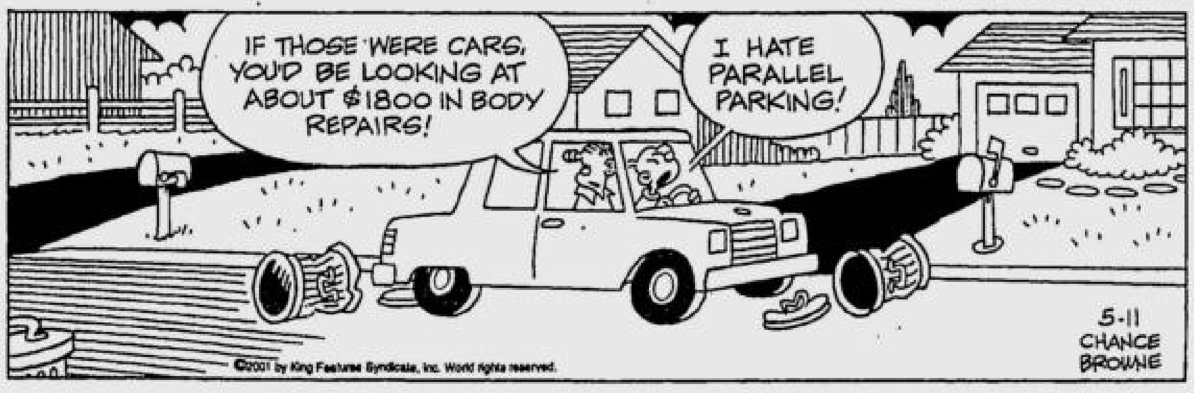
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK ♫
SHOMEWHERE THERE'S A CHILLY FOOTSIE... BUT I DON'T CARE.
6-1

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IF THOSE WERE CARS, YOU'D BE LOOKING AT ABOUT $1800 IN BODY REPAIRS!
I HATE PARALLEL PARKING!
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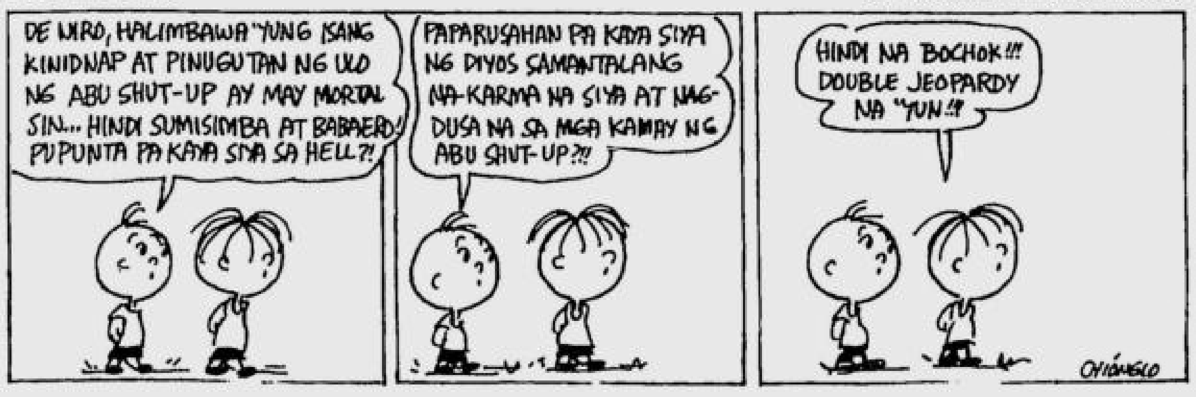
5-11
CHANCE BROWNE

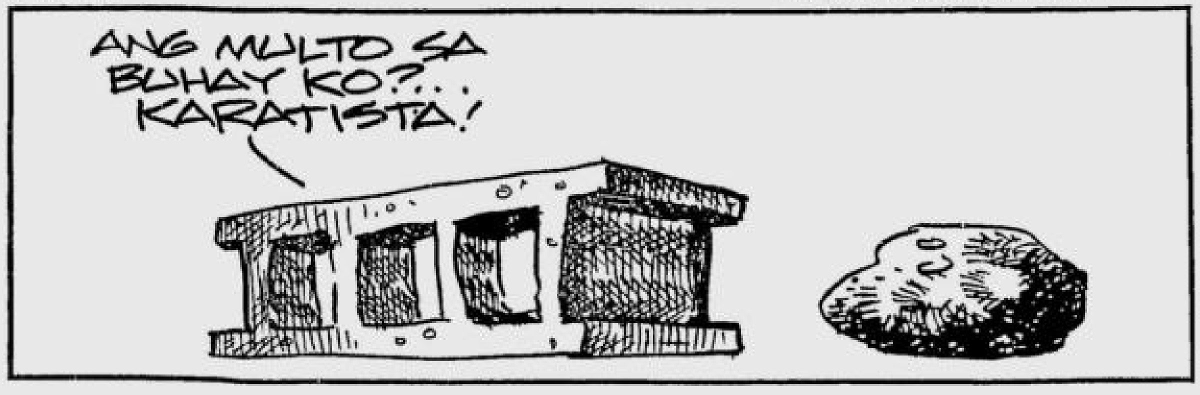
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE MIRO, HALIMBAWA 'YUNG ISANG KINIDNAP AT PINUGUTAN NG ULO NG ABU SHUT-UP AY MAY MORTAL SIN... HINDI SUMISIMBA AT BABAERO! PUPUNTA PA KAYA SIYA SA HELL?!
PAPARUSAHAN PA KAYA SIYA NG DIYOS SAMANTALANG NA-KARMA NA SIYA AT NAGDUSA NA SA MGA KAMAY NG ABU SHUT-UP?!!
HINDI NA BOCHOK!!! DOUBLE JEOPARDY NA 'YUN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG MULTO SA BUHAY KO?... KARATISTA!

Zits is not just for teens

PICTURE this: You're fighting your way through traffic when you begin to feel a tingling sensation on your cheek. You brush the spot with the back of your hand thinking a stray hair must be tickling you, but the irritation is persistent. Finally, you inspect the suspicious spot in the rear view mirror and your worst fears are confirmed. A zit larger than a breadbox has reared its ugly head when you least expected it and when you needed most to look your best. But, only teenagers get pimples, right? Well, no, adults can suffer from acne flare-ups, too. The only difference in this scenario is that you're on your way to an important business meeting instead of the prom.

Most people equate acne as the consequence of being a teenager, as though it were a rite of passage marking the ascent into adulthood. But, the fact is that as much as 20 percent of the adult population are affected by acne, most of them women.

Let's face it. Acne doesn't look good on anyone of any age and it can be socially immobilizing and disfiguring as well. While teenagers can usually blame the hormonal roller coaster that ushers in puberty as a source of their skin troubles, adults are left wondering why they're in the same condition long after the ride is over. But, while hormonal activity is certainly an important factor in causing acne, there are other contributing sources that remain plentiful in the grown-up world.

Chocolate. Pizza. Poor hygiene. There are many myths surrounding blemishes and their causes. And it's no wonder. The reasons for blemishes are complex, governed by such out-of-our-hands influences as genes, stress and hormones. But for the millions who suffer from breakouts, the simple truth is that bacteria, excess oil and clogged pores are the immediate prime culprits. A pimple is born when oil becomes trapped inside a hair follicle sealed off by dead surface skin cells. This plugged follicle becomes a breeding ground for bacteria, which multiply, irritating the follicle and causing the inflammation and redness associated with a blemish flare-up.

CLINIQUE'S Anti-Blemish Solution is recommended for adults with oily foreheads and noses and acne.

Acne 101

Acne formation is a three-step process, regardless of age. First, the sebaceous glands surrounding the many hair follicles produce excess sebum, an oily substance geared to lubricate skin and hair and retain moisture. Next comes the involvement of dead skin cells that become trapped in the sebum in the follicle canal or comedo. Nearby cells that produce keratin, a fibrous protein that is an integral component of hair, nails and outer skin, can also be stimulated into overproduction and can join forces with dead skin cells to form a blockage of the follicle canal.

We recognize a blackhead as an open comedo, where the blockage is visible in the pore. A closed comedo, or white head, occurs when the blockage is complete. In either case, the follicle canal balloons, but in the latter it does not rupture. Finally, if the bacterium Propionibacterium acne is present, the blocked follicle canal encourages its overgrowth and it begins to break down sebum and cause inflammation.

Anti-blemish

Clinique offers a treatment program that effectively, precisely and gently targets the causes of surface blemishes at their source, to help keep skin clean, fresh and clear.

As a brand dedicated to addressing the needs of all skin types and skin problems, Clinique has developed an efficacious system of anti-blemish products to help clear and prevent breakouts without overdrying or irritating skin.

Its anti-blemish products gently provide benefits such as exfoliation and excess oil control.

Suitable for all skin types that are prone to surface blemishes, Clinique's line consists of:

Cleansing foam: A pre-soap cleanser that preps the skin for thorough cleansing by dissolving away all traces of makeup, grime and other stubborn surface layers.

Night treatment gel: A gel that helps clear and prevent blemishes as it minimizes visible evidence of past breakouts.

Concealing cream: A water-based cream concealer ideal for covering large and small areas alike.

All products are allergy-tested and 100 percent fragrance-free.

Hairdressers win beauty Olympics

SEVEN hairdressers and makeup artists from the Philippines bested their Asian counterparts during the recent 5th Asia Pacific Beauty Arts Olympics held at Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea.

It was mounted by the Asia Pacific Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association (APHCA) last June 25 and 26, with the Korean Beauty Association. The event was participated in by more than 150 beauty artists from Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Australia, South Korea, Mongolia, China and the United States.

The Philippine delegation, headed by top hairdresser Ricky Reyes, is composed of professional hairdressers from various beauty salons who bagged the top prizes during the Hair and Makeup Trends competition held in May at the PICC. Armed with lots of imagination and a wealth of experience in the beauty industry, the participants wielded their brushes and scissors and went on to win major prizes.

Rey Pamen emerged as the champion in the men's Cut and Blow Dry Category with his creation, highlighted by yellow and green dyes on the hair. A bird cage, complete with chirping birds added fun and impact to the winning entry.

Elmer Herreras' entry was adjudged Best Country Design for evening party makeup while Allan Joson regaled the guests with an evening party hairstyle that won for him the Best Country Design as well.

Other Filipino winners include: Benjie Alipio, second runner-up, fantasy makeup category with his "Hula Hoop" ensemble; Espie Novillas, excellence award, evening party hairstyle; Churchill Dignos, excellence award, evening party makeup; and Joed Sambilla, second runner-up, men's cut and blow dry category.

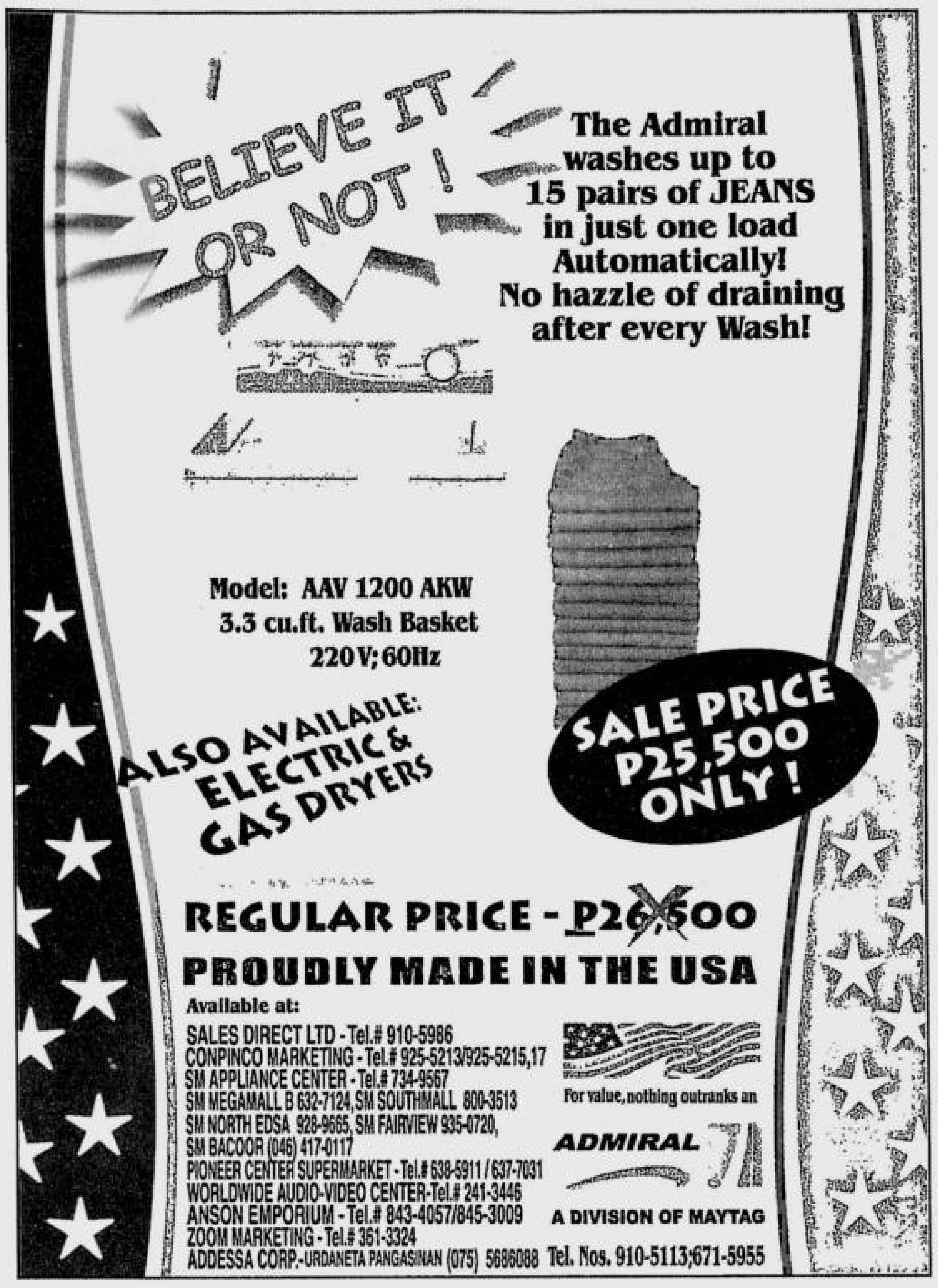
Jewelmer in cyberspace

JEWELMER.COM, the official website of Jewelmer Int'l., the Philippines' leading producer of South Sea pearls and fine jewelry, continues to carve its niche both in the jewelry trade and cyberspace.

This year, jewelmer.com. is nominated in the 2001 Top Ten Business-to-Business (b2b) Jewellery Websites poll conducted by the Jewellery News Asia, the leading news magazine for the jewelry business, gem trade and watch industry in the Asian region.

Since its breakthrough launch in 1998, jewelmer.com has been recognized as a leader in the jewelry online business by several Web-based award-giving bodies.

In 1999, jewelmer.com was chosen Most Outstanding Website for Business by The Philippine Web Awards, the local counterpart of The Web magazine's Webby Awards in the United States. Last year, the US-based Gemkey magazine cited jewelmer.com as one of the Best Consumer and Information Sites.



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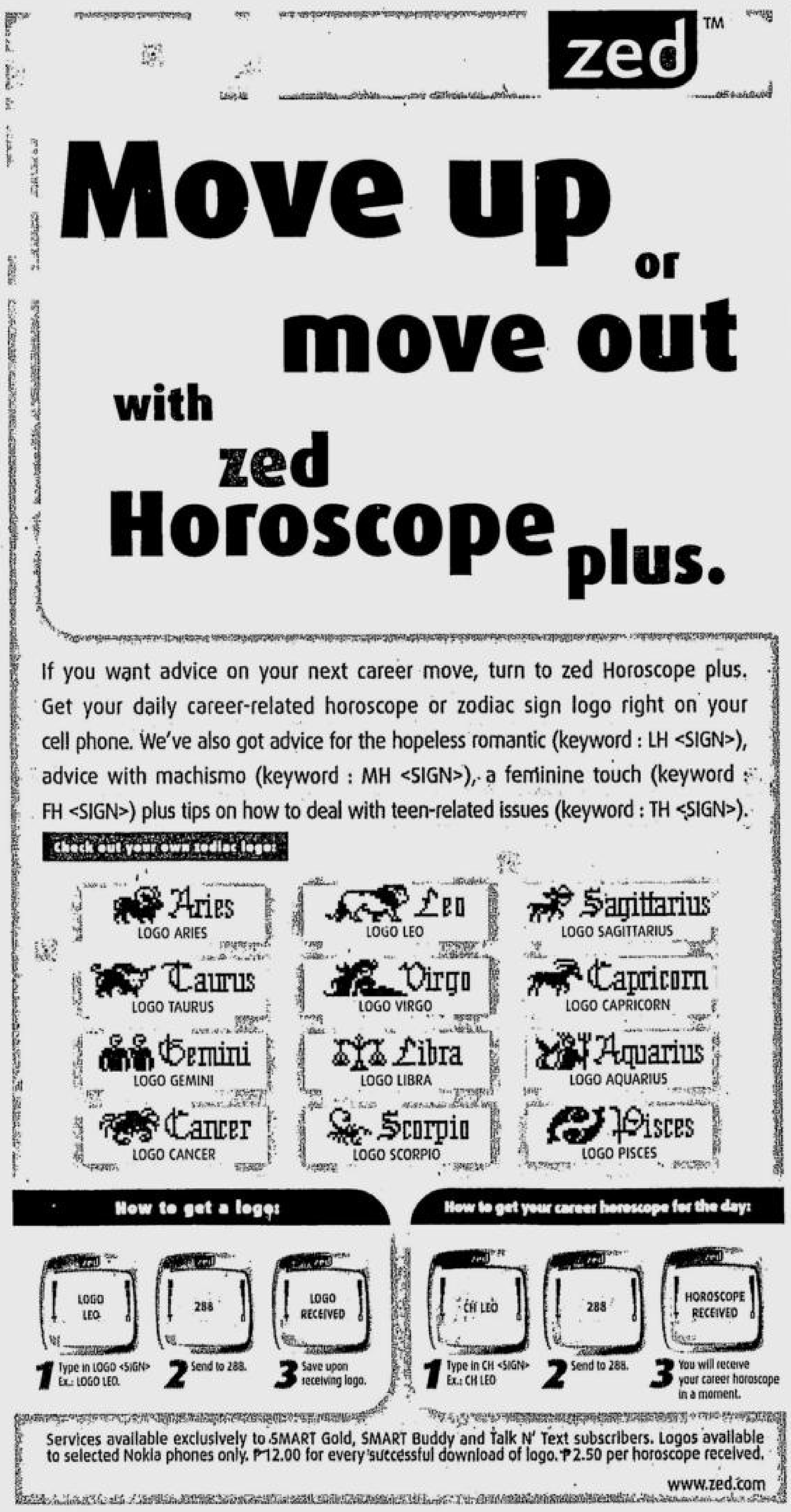

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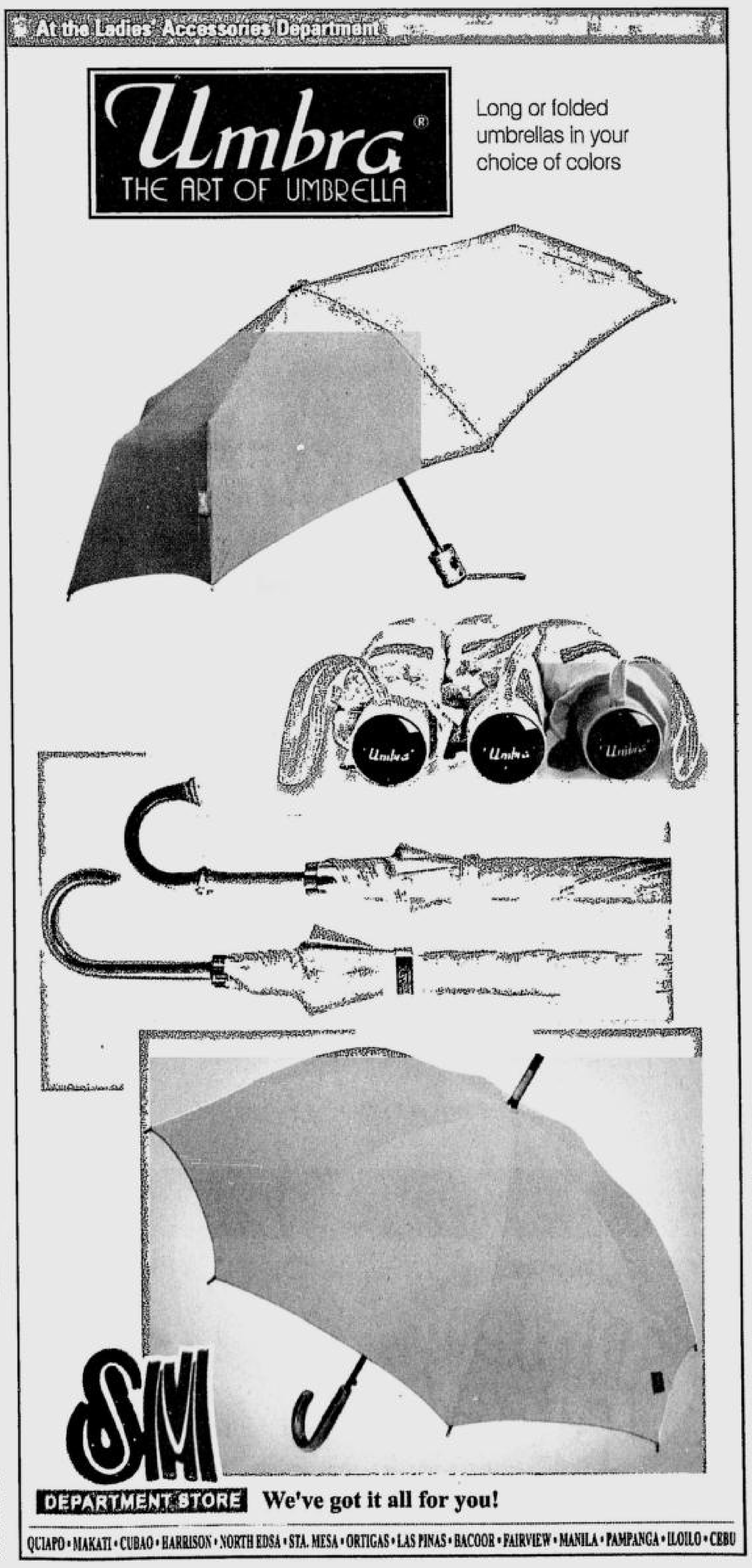

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The tycoon taught us a humble man's way to die. Today, he's led a daughter to a mission

A lesson from Geny Lopez

(From page E1)

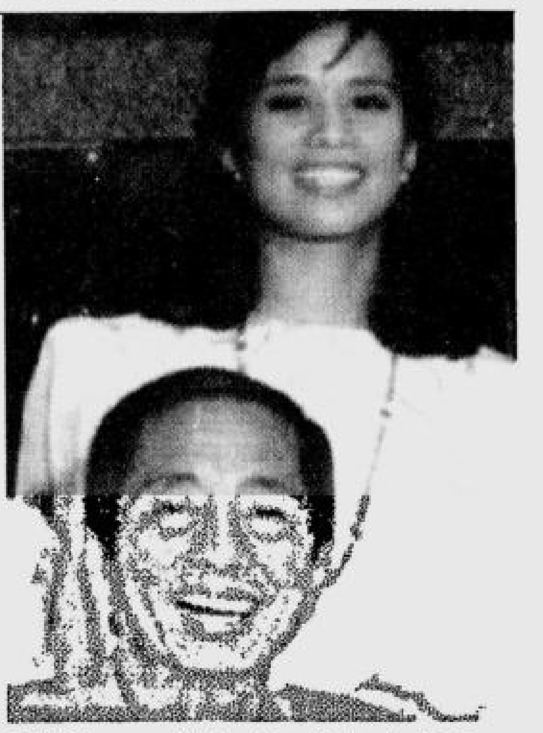
her last moments with him.

Eugenio Lopez Jr. died at 70—untimely and young if you knew the man's vigor, drive and vision, zest for life and, most especially, his kindness to others. He had battled cancer and all thought he had triumphed over it, until his last checkup in San Francisco, when the doctors told him in no uncertain terms that his time was up.

Instead of going through what would have been another tortuous medical treatment, he decided to devote his remaining days to quality time with his family at home, settling life's unfinished business, but most important, using his still lucid mind and heart to emphasize to his children, who'd gather in his room, the values he cherished and—in the end—what he felt really mattered in life. Since I work with the Lopez group (at ABS-CBN Publishing), it's not that comfortable to write about and thus publicize that private phase, but after hearing Marisa, I felt the need to write it if only to reach out to families faced with the dying—to share Marisa's lessons from that pain.

Health and power

Through a Jesuit he spoke to in those waning days, Geny said his peace with the world and his love for those he was about to leave behind. To Fr. **Antonio Lambino**, he said on June 6, 1999, two weeks before his death: "Father, thank you for making time to say Mass for me. I know this is a busy Sunday for priests. If you get an opportunity to speak to my relatives and friends in the near future, please tell them: I am at peace with God. I have experienced many deep joys with my loved ones and I have made many mistakes in life. From the bottom of my heart, I thank all those who have loved me and I ask forgiveness of those whom I may have hurt."



GENY Lopez with daughter Marisa in 1987

It was only after his death that we came to know fully the number of poor people he had helped through the years—quietly—as they trooped to his wake. That was Geny as both health and power. But it is only today, at Mass, two years after his death, that we came to know how even a dying Geny left us valuable lessons on how to face death.

From that experience, Marisa realized the importance of the kind of care we give the dying—and through it, empower the dying. She made it her mission to care for the dying, visiting them, particularly the poor, in their homes and, more important, training in hospice care. She discovered that by care-giving she learned to cope with depression. This may sound strange to some, but to Marisa, a regular exposure to death has made her appreciate life, particularly only the things that should matter in the end.

"When you see the dying, it changes your perspective of what's really important in life. You learn to choose the things you get upset about, and it's not the stock market," she told us.

"You realize that in the end, leading a good life, being good to people is what counts. It's not the number of cars or homes you have."

She observed correctly when she noted that in our culture, we can't address death. We can't be forthright about it. "The dying can leave many secrets behind, or unfinished business because the family can't address death, even in terminal cases," she said.

"The relatives make decisions for the dying so they end up doing things that the dying may have done otherwise."

Dealing with death

This is because very often, the terminally ill is left at the mercy of debilitating medicines and equally helpless relatives. So instead of making the most of what's left of a lucid mind and still-strong body, the dying is pathetically attached to tubes.

"And in some instances, the dying allows himself to be tube-fed only to grant his family's wish," she said.

This realization drove her to research on palliative medicines, with the help of a pediatrician, **Cynthia San Luis**, whose daughter, as a child, was diagnosed with leukemia. The daughter survived and is now 17. That experience opened the eyes of Dr. San Luis to the option of hospice care and palliative medicines.

"Hospitals go after the cure. Hospice goes after the care," Marisa said.

In palliative medicine under hospice care, doctors train in dealing with the symptoms of death. "Regular doctors don't know or don't have the time to deal with the symptoms of the dying, other than giving traditional medicines," Marisa said.

In the hospice centers she and Dr. San Luis have visited in England, they saw how the staff is trained in symptoms management, particularly management of pain, and in counseling.

"They leave the dying to be conscious and able enough to deal with unfinished issues," she said. "In that hospice center, for instance, the terminally ill are even allowed to smoke or drink if they want to."

In short, in the end, what matters is the quality of life—of what's left of it. No doubt, this approach is bound to be controversial, if not revolutionary, here where palliative care and hospice center are still untried.

To carry on her mission, Marisa and her group have set up the St. Michael's Hospice Center. The board is headed by **Sonia Roco**, the wife of Education Secretary **Raul Roco**. In 1990, Sonia was buried alive for three days during the earthquake that devastated Baguio and other parts of Luzon. That disaster, that killed many people, struck on July 16, 11 years ago. Sonia had stared death in the face, so she's drawn to this cause. When Sonia's mother died recently, Sonia opted for palliative care.

First of its kind

Marisa and Sonia have a volunteer staff of 20 who underwent a training program and now cares for the dying. Marisa jokingly refers to Sonia as their "ambulance driver." This group is determined to build a P25 million hospice—which should be the first of its kind in the country—and is raising funds for it. It is now based in Marikina. They are prepared to do this gradually. For a start, they're preparing for a November bazaar. (For more information, write grassi@skyinet.net.)

"The transition from life to death can be beautiful, if you're 'conscious,'" Marisa said, "but if you're connected to all these tubes, it becomes traumatic for both the dying and the family."

"A hospice is not a place to die, but a way to die," she told us.

His children feel closer than ever to Geny now. "Even in this endeavor, I feel my dad is pushing me."

And in the long run, Geny always gets his way.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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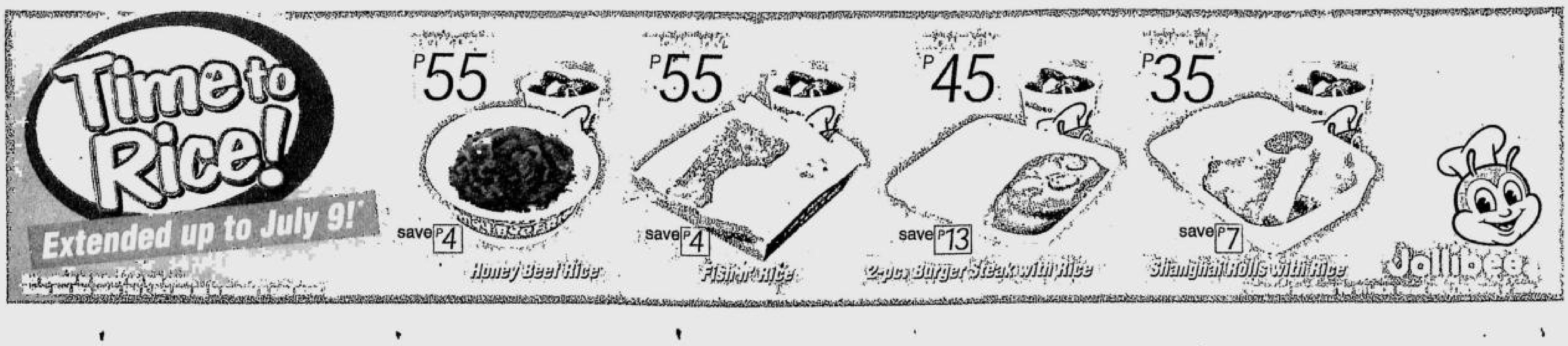

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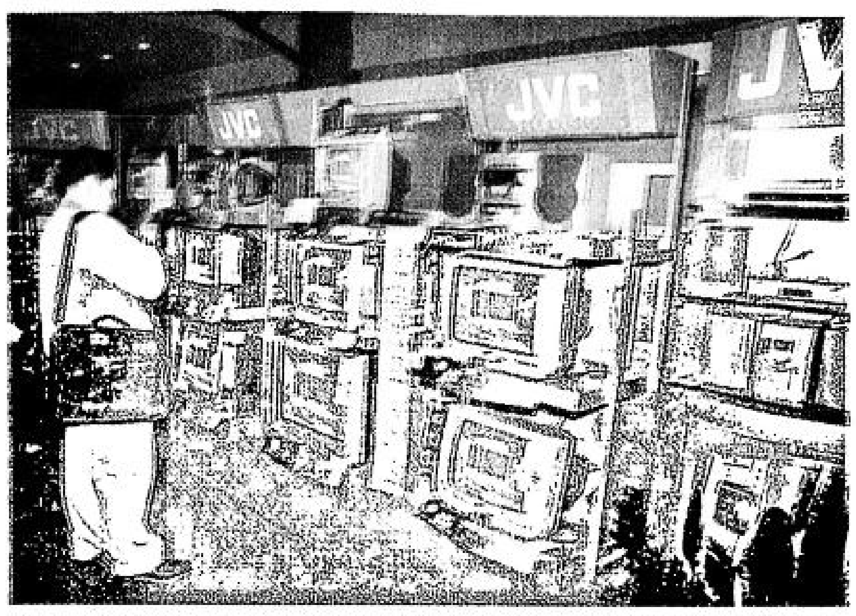
'Elementary, my dear Winona'

SO MY DAUGHTER and I were bonding in one of the benches in Robinsons Place in Ermita, when my 12-year-old daughter asked me, "Daddy, why are we here?"

"Elementary, my dear Winona," I replied as we eyed the mall crowd building up before us. "We're here to witness something special unfold before our eyes this morning."

Winona didn't realize it, but she was looking at a piece of retailing history begin right in front of her. Automatic Centre's first ever exhibit at Robinsons Place being held jointly with Blims Fine Furniture—the "Appliance and Furniture Expo at Ermita"—was just about to open for the day.



'THROW the laws of physics out the window, Winona. There'll be sonic booms and fantastic illusions in our living rooms when we get these babies'

"Winona, we are now gazing at what science and technology have achieved to make our lives more convenient, and much more fun. We're here to be among the multitude who are flocking to this 200 sq.m Orosa Atrium until July 15.

My daughter, wide-eyed and mouth agape, listened intently. So, I went on. "I don't think we should be content with what we already have. We have to strive for the finer things in life. Let us not be too metaphysical about it, but think about what that giant flat TV or that powerful mini-component with DVD player can do to our living room. Each day would be bliss. And speaking of bliss, that bedroom set over there by Blims will surely redefine the meaning of sound sleep."

The young girl was taking it all in, word for word. "We're here to see credit cardholders enjoy privileges they deserve. Name every credit card you know, and chances are it'll be accepted in the expo. That's not all, if you buy on installment, you'll enjoy reduced interest rates at the expo. It's true! And that means so many installment terms to choose from which most of these credit cards offer.

"For this gives credit

'ELEMENTARY/ F2

A quality home with the quality choice

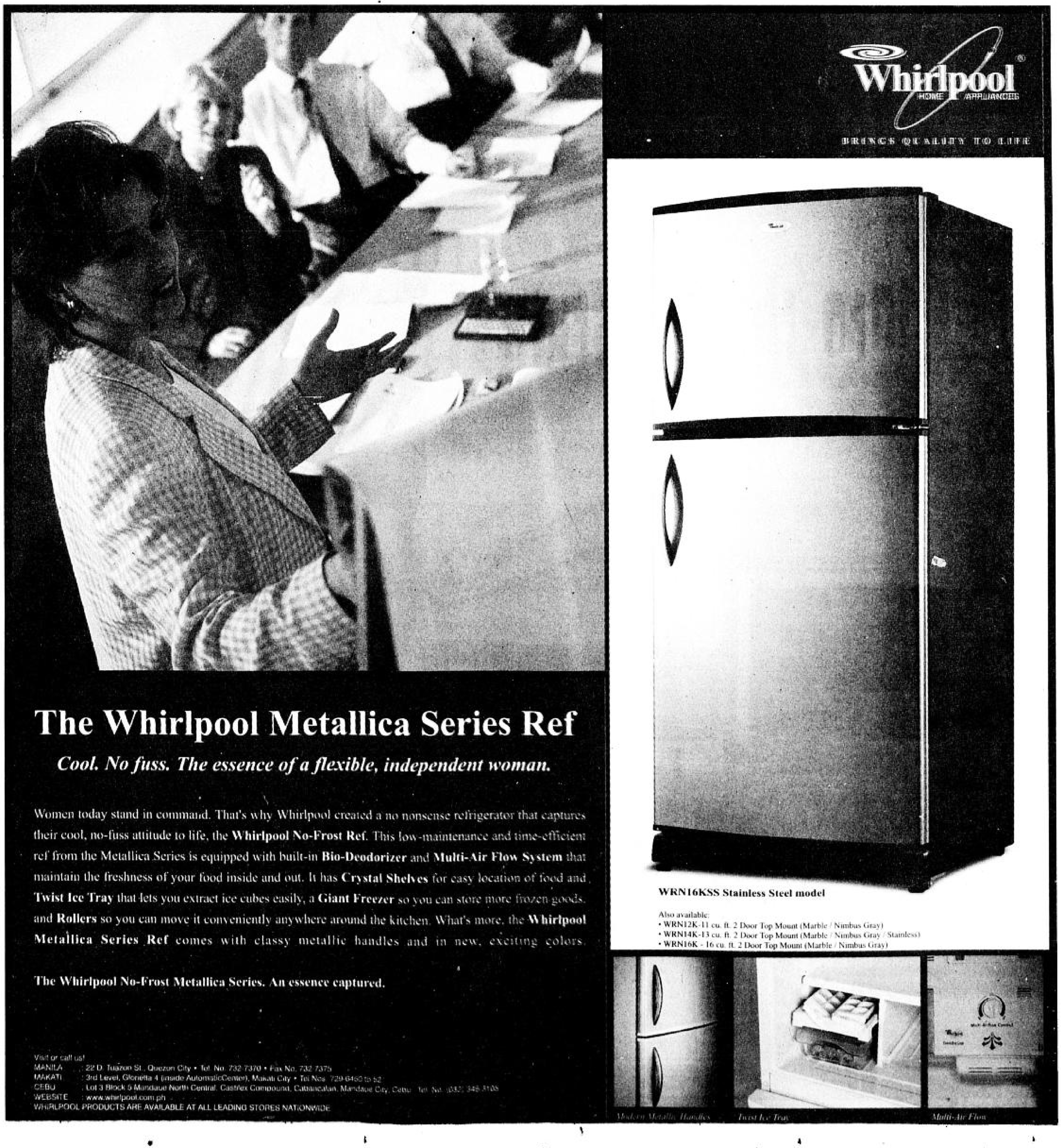
BETWEEN work and family life, how much time do you really have for yourself? When was the last time you took a long, luxurious bath, or read a good book, or indulged in a hobby you really like? For the homemaker on the go, this may seem virtually impossible. There's hardly any time to see to household chores like laundry and preparing meals for the family.

But one brand of home appliances believes in the kind of quality life that the working mother deserves. Whirlpool Home Appliances continuously creates household partners that take a load off keeping house. With the thoughtful custom-built features in each of its products, it's no wonder Whirlpool has been the consistent top choice of discerning homemakers who value quality.

Take the Whirlpool No-Frost Metallica Series Ref, for instance. It's perfect for today's lifestyle. Low-maintenance and time-efficient, it is equipped with a bio-deodorizer and a multi-air flow system that keeps food fresh inside and out. Plus, it is the very essence of convenience with features like crystal shelves as easy food-finders, and twist ice tray that lets you extract ice cubes easily. Its giant freezer enables you to store goods that will remain as fresh as the day they were purchased. Its rollers help make moving around easy and stress-free. What's more, it has classy metallic handles and comes in new, exciting colors to customize your kitchen.

With Whirlpool's distinctive brand of worldwide quality, there's no reason to pass up the chance to upgrade your life. After all, the quality life is truly what it's all about.

See the Whirlpool No-Frost Metallica Series Ref for yourself at your nearest Automatic Centre, or visit the Whirlpool Showroom at 22 D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City. You may also log on to



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Modern Metallic Handles
Twist Ice Tray
Multi-Air Flow

‘Elementary, my dear Winona’

(From page F1)

cardholders added flexibility in buying their chosen appliance or furniture. Best of all, we could pay for a certain product on monthly installment at ZERO interest! Confused? Don’t be. It’s really quite simple. The credit card companies and appliance and furniture manufacturers have identified what products will be offered at various ZERO percent interest installment plans during the exhibit. What the customer will pay at the end of the term is only the cash price, broken down into several payments. No more than that, and on installment at that.

“We’re also here to see firsthand how Automatic Centre’s Warranty Plus and Replacement Advantage Program work. If you buy an appliance, what you usually get is a one-year warranty. With Warranty Plus, you get extra warranty of up to four years, extending your warranty coverage up to five years! And if within those five years your appliance requires some fixing, you only have to remember the number of Automatic Centre’s hotline, 754-3515. A service clerk will take care of everything until it’s fixed. The Warranty Plus is even transferable to the next owner if in case you decide to sell the appliance within the extended warranty period. Neat, huh?

“The Replacement Advantage program works like Warranty Plus, but it’s for small appliances. Say I buy a rice cooker or even a desk fan that needs servicing after the expiration of its one-year warranty, Automatic Centre will replace it with a brand-new one! No need to bring it to the service center anymore.

WARRANTY Plus

Imagine that!

“We’re here to get even more treats from participating manufacturers. While some would be giving away free stuff, Automatic Centre and Concepcion-Carrier will let you win another air-conditioner in their “Cool Buy, Cool Win” raffle if you buy any of their air-conditioner brands like Carrier, Condura and Kelvinator.

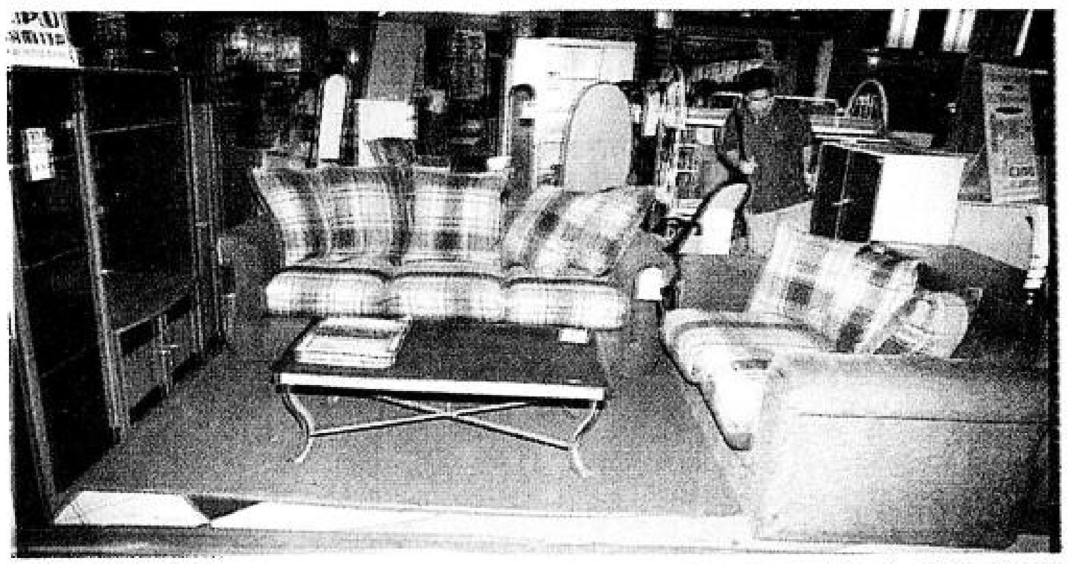
“And none of us are going home saying, `Shucks, I wish I’d just spent more time watching a VCD movie at home.’ We’re going to say, `How lucky I am to have brought along my Rewards Plus card—I get to buy this videocam at a really low price and earn additional points at the same time.

“Does that answer your question, Win?”

Just when I expected my daughter to compliment my thorough knowledge of the appliance and furniture retailing business, my daughter said, “Not really, Daddy. I was really asking why we were here when we should’ve picked up Mommy 40 minutes ago. Don’t you remember?”

Gulp. I had a lot more explaining to do at home.

‘DO you really think that man is looking for the remote in the TV screen, Dad?’



‘WE should have taken a rest here. It looks so much more inviting’

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

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Belinda Panelo
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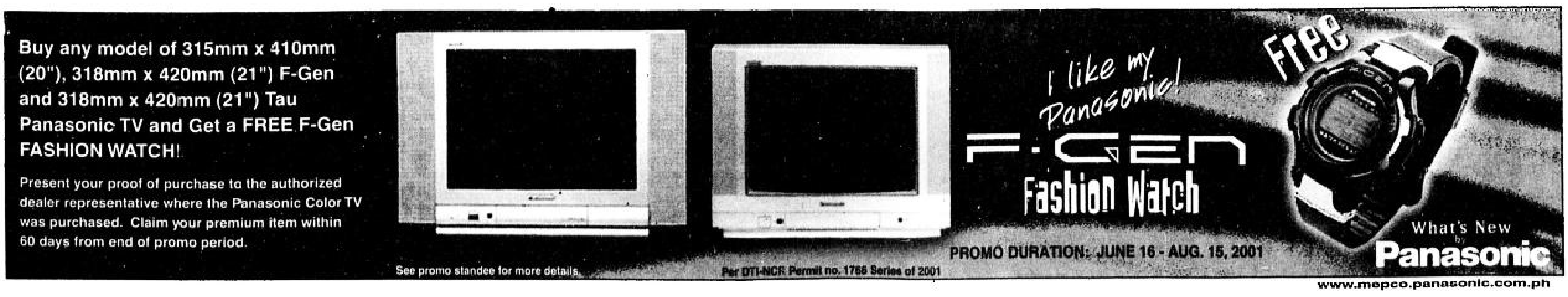

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1766 Series of 2001

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Selected items offered at 0% interest

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- WRD 883 – 205 liter, top mount, cycle defrost **(3 mos.)**
- AVM 278 – 1.0 cu.ft. microwave oven **(3 mos.)**

PIONEER
- DV535K – DVD player **(6 mos.)**
- VS90SX – VCD/CD player **(6 mos.)**

LG
- CP25Q20G – Flatron stereo/MTS Digital Eye 25" color TV **(3 mos.)**
- LWM1834QCG – window-type aircon **(3 mos.)**
- LM1723C2L – split-type aircon **(6 mos.)**
- GRT632DVQF – 18.5 cu.ft. no-frost refrigerator **(6 mos.)**

JVC
- AV-29R8B – color TV **(6 mos.)**
- FS-SD9 – micro component **(6 mos.)**
- HR-P53T – VHS player **(6 mos.)**

AIWA
- NXS-WVT99 – VCD player **(12 mos.)**
- XR-DV826 – DVD player **(12 mos.)**
- ZK-D770 – midi component **(9 mos.)**

BLIMS FINE FURNITURE
- La-Z-Boy IMT-550 Cardinal chaise massage/heat rocker recliner **(12 mos.)**
- O'Sullivan #20200 vertical entertainment center imported from USA **(12 mos.)**
- Bradley dining set for six with 1 ext. dining table, 2 armchairs, 4 side chairs, autumn cherry finish **(12 mos.)**

- And many more Whirlpool, LG, JVC, Aiwa and Blims Furniture items available at 0% interest until July 15, 2001.

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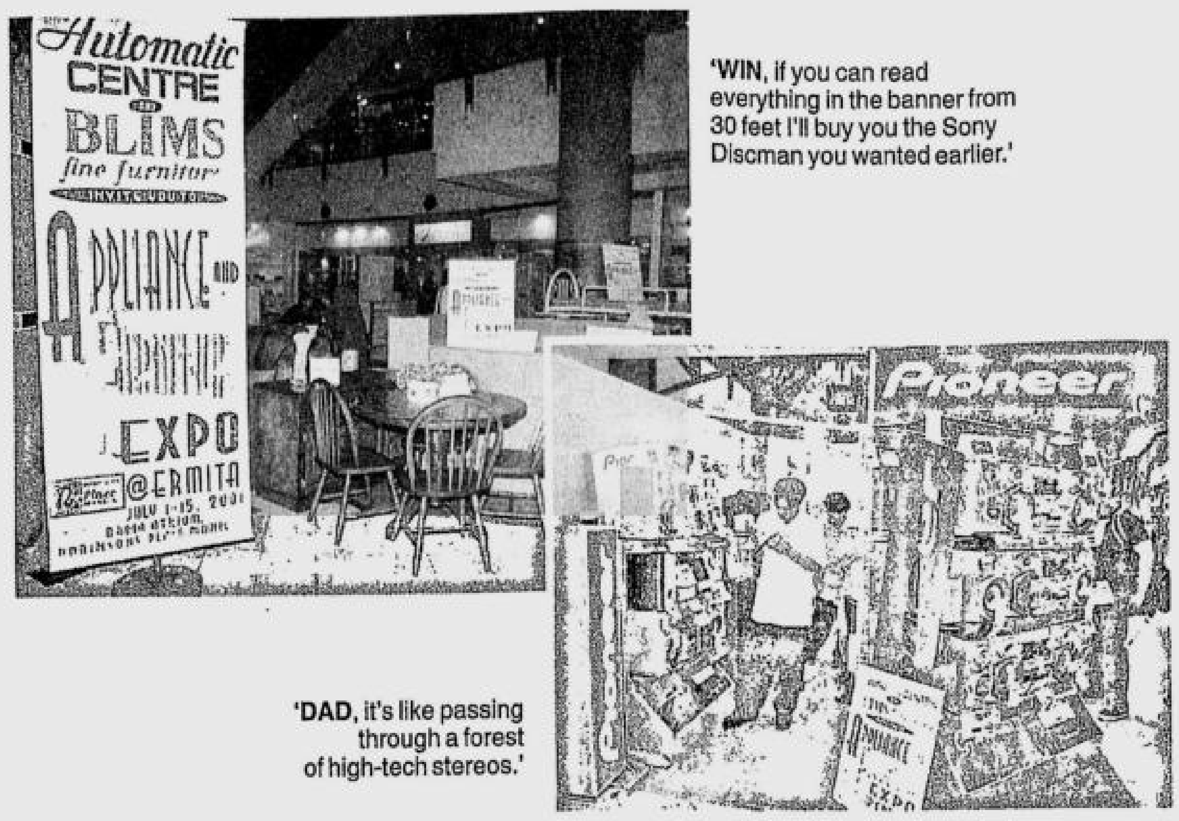

'WIN, if you can read everything in the banner from 30 feet I'll buy you the Sony Discman you wanted earlier.'

'DAD, it's like passing through a forest of high-tech stereos.'

BLIMS *fine furniture*

AND

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JULY 1-15, 2001 @ ERMITA

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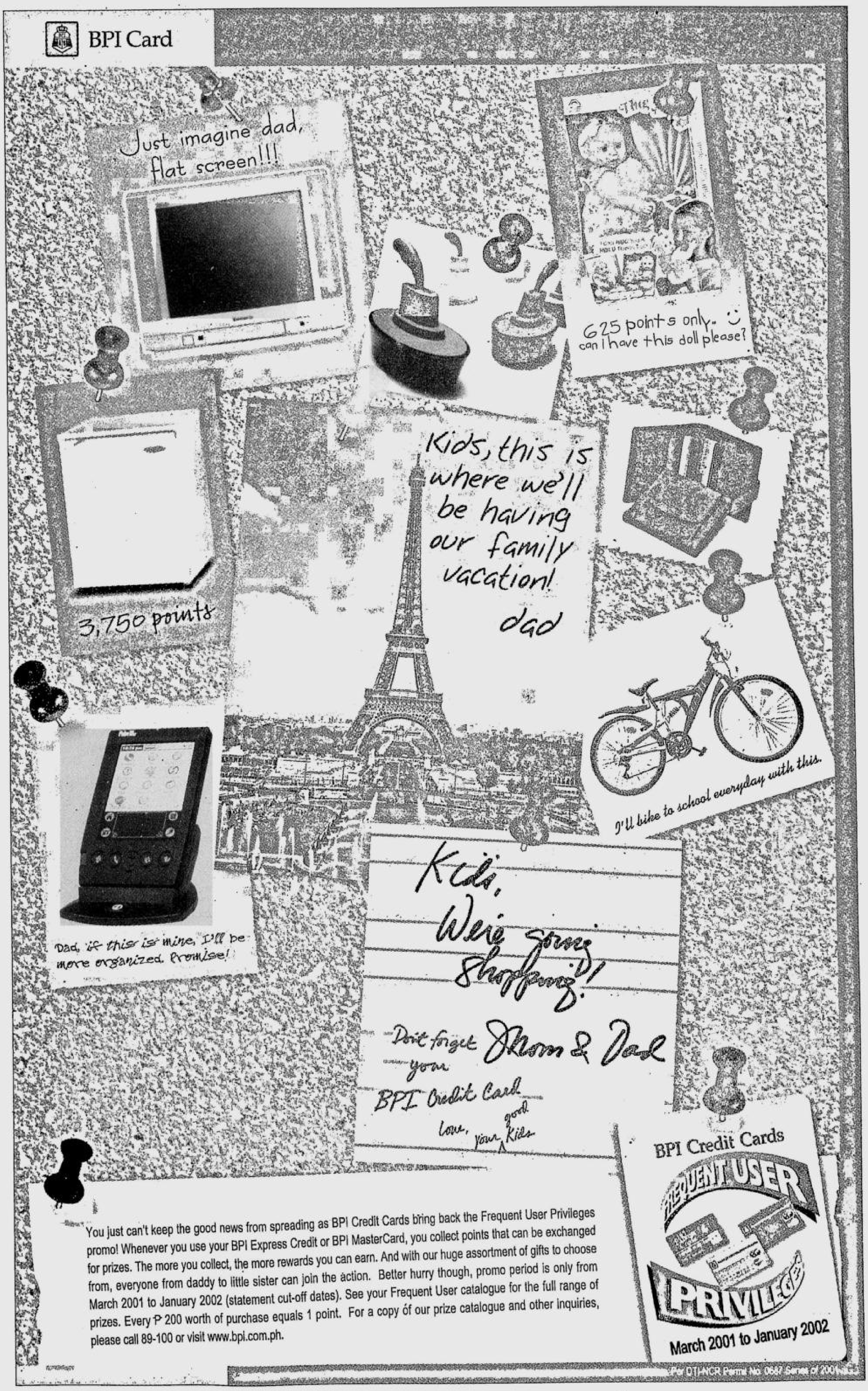

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dad

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Kids,
We're going shopping!
Mom & Dad

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Panasonic
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'**I THINK** they're waiting for the movie to start.'

Automatic CENTRE
BLIMS
APPLIANCE
EXPO
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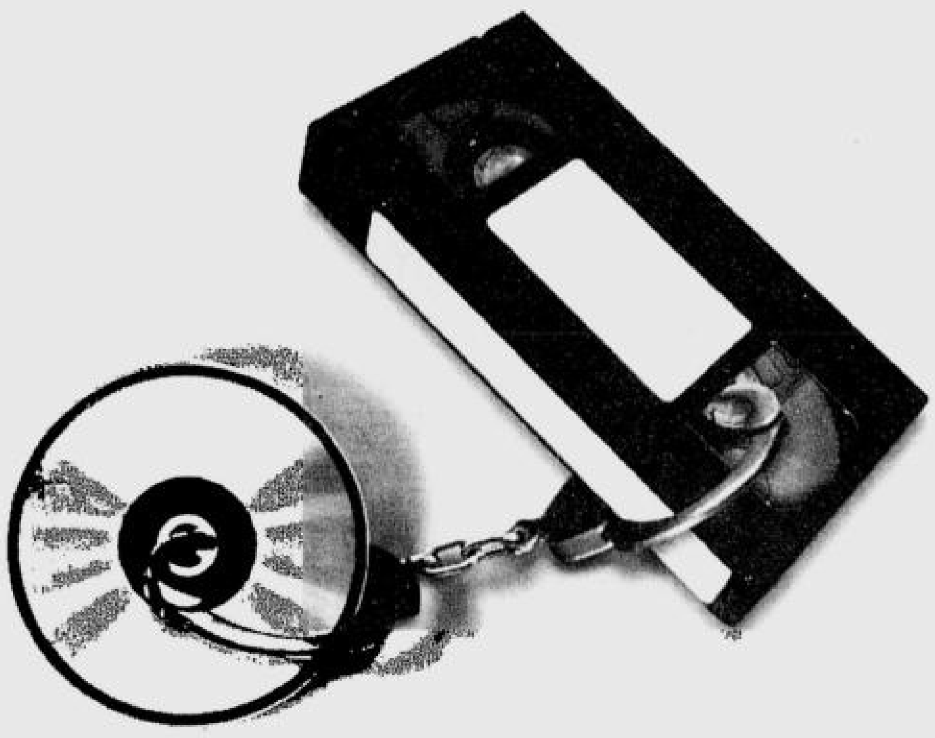
'**EVERYTIME** I pass this place my knees go weak and I feel like I want to sit down and take a breather.'



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OROSA ATRIUM, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA

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EXPO

'**NOW** where in this place did you say we would pick your mother up?'

aiwa
aiwa
aiwa
COLOR TELEVISION

'**WIN**, you can fit into one of these compos.'

aiwa
aiwa
aiwa
DVD
DVD
BLIMS
APPLIANCE
EXPO

'**DID** Mr. Spock have any of these in Vulcan, Dad?'

National
National

'**NOW** this is way cool, Win. Way cool.'

Automatic CENTRE
APPLIANCE
EXPO

'MY card. Where's my card? Win, hurry. The lady's waiting.'

LG
LG
LG
FLATRON

'HOW about a cute li'l Flatron TV for a cute li'l daughter like me, Dad? I'll pay for it later when I'm all grown up. Promise, Dad.'

'DAD, that man looks confused. Why don't you go and tell him the prices are not a problem. There's always an installment scheme.'

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Notting Hill
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Bruce Willis
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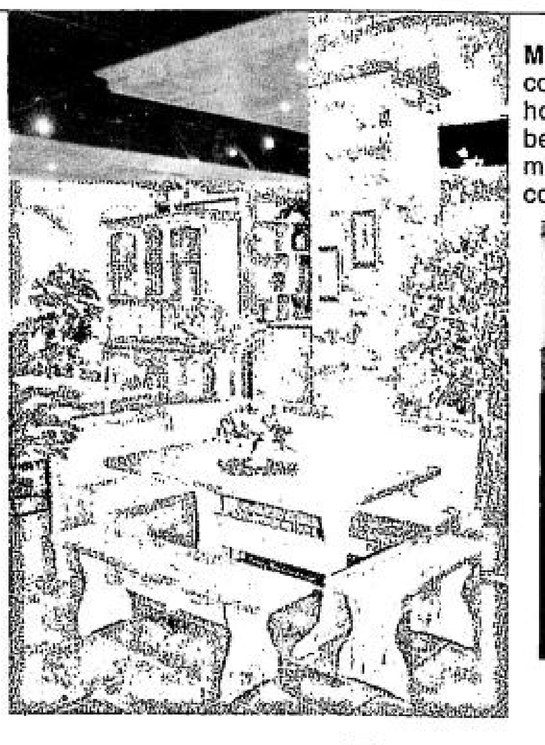
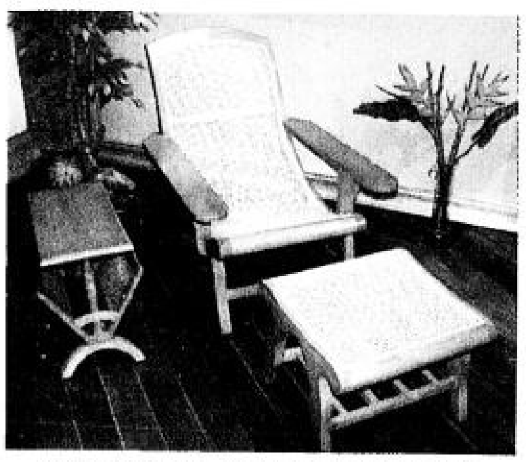
COUNTRY-STYLE living room set (with striped upholstery) has glass-paneled window for backdrop.

DINING table can be extended to seat up to eight people by the simple expediency of pushing out the table halves and lifting the extension piece as shown by Max Kienle.



MODULAR dinette fits into a kitchen corner. Seats open up to compartments to hold equipment, magazines, etc. Two benches go with the set and like the other modules, can be rearranged for more convenience.



CENTENNIAL chair reprises the old-fashioned *silla de selohia* (chair of rattan weave). Frame and arms and base of footrest are wood.

Pinoy furniture with Euro touches

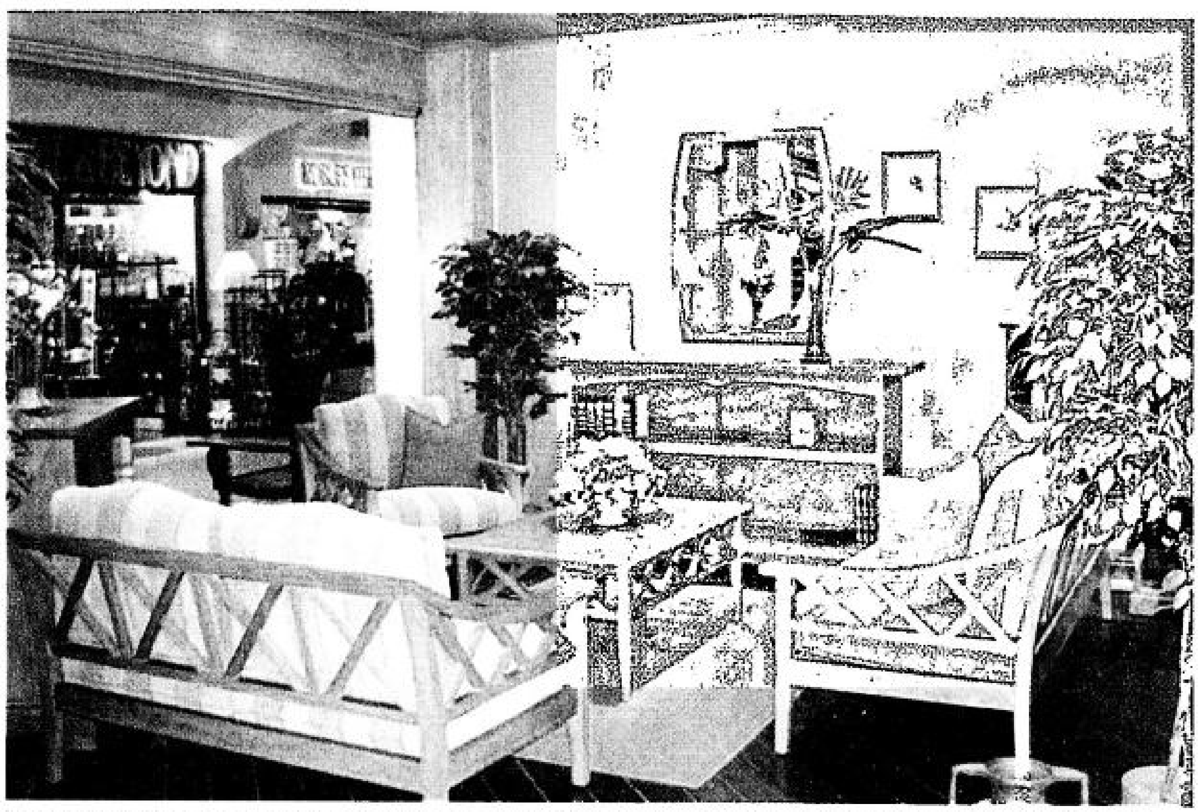
By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Chito Vecina

PHILUX manufactures furniture that combines excellent Filipino craftsmanship with designs that draw much from European influences. The company has been in operation since 1980, and from the beginning it has specialized in wood furnishings.

Max Kienle has been in the country long enough to know how Filipinos live and the types of furniture they have favored through the years

The Pinoy-European blend is the result of owner Max Kienle's keen observation of what's good and what's right about Filipino furniture. He has been in the country long enough, he says, to know how Filipinos live and the types of furniture they have favored through the years. And, definitely, these are furniture pieces with some European touches infused into basic Filipino- preferred styles.

BEDROOM set includes, besides the bed, a dressing table with a movable three-paneled mirror and an armoire.



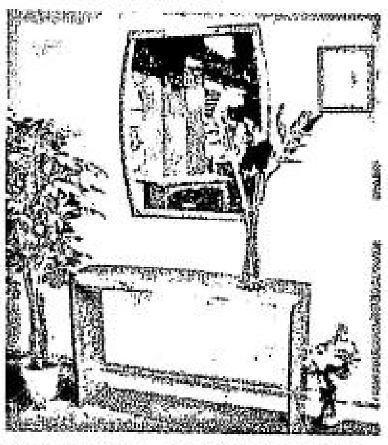
VERY Frenchy is this living room set named Stephanie after a Kienle daughter.Trellis pattern on woodwork

While wood is the basic raw material, Philux also makes single pieces out of rattan, like the lounging chair with matching footrest made of rattan weave (*solihiya*), which it calls Centennial Chair. And while purchases by sets are encouraged, single pieces are available as well.

Kienle takes pride in the no-nonsense look of his furniture. Straight, clean lines are obviously preferred to carved designs, mainly because they give off a look of solidity and durability. But Philux furniture has lighthearted elements that add to comfort and function. There are the dowels that do away with heavy metal nails completely, and the knockdown pieces, like the extended dining table that answers the need for additional space in case of extra guests at dinner.

Kienle first came to the Philippines on behalf of an international company dealing in coconut oil. He was later asked to relocate to Paris which, being Swiss, should have been a welcome offer, but he decided he wanted to stay. His story is perhaps the familiar one of the foreigner who came, saw and was conquered by the possibilities that opened up to him here, as well as by other lures not quite of a business nature. He had met Zelda Aragon in one of his old company's socials in Manila, and that must have clinched his decision to stay.

He then set up Philux, a name he thought would best evoke luxurious made-in-the-Philippines furniture, which is how he wanted to present them in the trade. At first his products were all for export, which included stylish handicrafts, metal and wood furniture, until he decided to go into retail. And so, in 1993, he opened his first store and concentrated on all-wood furniture.



ELLIPTICAL table set against a wall and a matching mirror is unique in its shape.

By this time, he had married Zelda, who began to assist him (and still does) in the decorative aspects of their showrooms, the biggest so far being the one at the Alabang Town Center. They now have two teenage daughters after whom some Philux lines are named.

Kienle credits the success of many of his lines to his French designer, Marc Etienne, whose presence puts a human stamp on the Filipino-European ambience projected in all Philux stores. Kienle also has high praises for his 150 Filipino craftsmen whose "feel" for their work is somehow reflected in the quality of the end products.

Where once Kienle went 100 percent for export, he is currently going 100 percent domestic. Now he sees that he can return to the export trade, if only to a small degree. This means he will have to expand his physical factory in Quezon City, his operations, and perhaps move to another location altogether.

Philux now has six stores—in Alabang Town Center, Glorietta in Makati City, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila and one soon to open at Rockwell Center.

Nobody seems to be looking, but Camp John Hay is changing

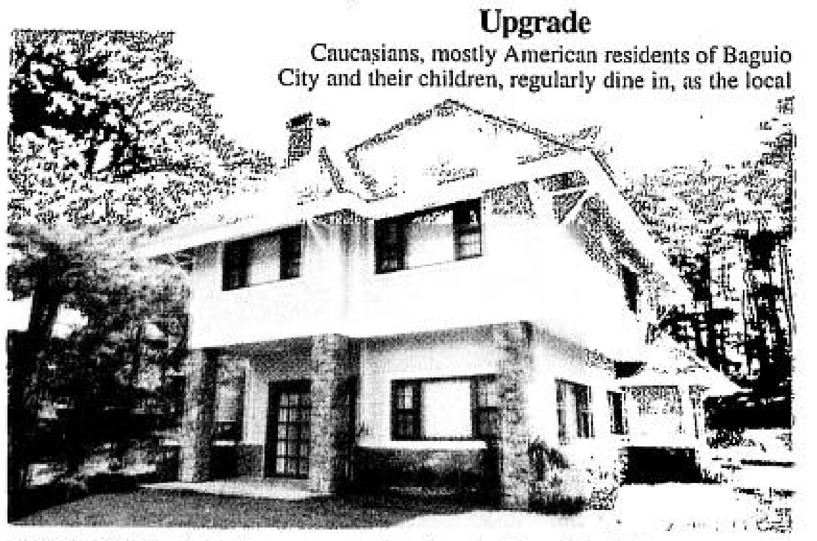
By Gerry Lirio

WHILE no one is looking, Camp John Hay is a-changing.

Give the architects and designers three more years and the old face and smell of early American times would be completely gone. As it is, there are no more big red apples, although the camp still serves T-bone steak in generous sizes, probably to recapture its old crowd, at Lone Star, the last American restaurant standing.

Upgrade

Caucasians, mostly American residents of Baguio City and their children, regularly dine in, as the local concessionaire Mario's boasts of serving only imported meat.



THE DESIGN of the house remains true to Baguio's history as a hill station and vacation place during the American colonial period. These include the exterior siding, chimney and small front porch. A former high-placed official stays here. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMP JOHN HAY

THE LOBBY of the Golf Clubhouse has a log cabin style, replete with exposed rafters. The light from the American-style chandelier hits the wooden walls to evoke a warm glow

Halfway House, the first restaurant that used to greet guests and lowlanders coming from the main gate on Session Road, has disappeared. It was there, apart from the Main Club, where US servicemen treated their very important guests, among them Rogelio de la Rosa, to fine dining. They even serenaded him with Louis Armstrong's "As Time Goes By" at its piano bar.

The Halfway House has given way to an upgrading of the 18-hole golf course designed by no less than Jack Nicklaus. The site is now all green, the green of Hole No. 16. Likewise, the 19th tee is gone.

The cafeteria that served real big hamburgers and huge cuts of ham and bacon, fresh fruits and milk, unavailable even at Rustan's, for breakfast, has been bulldozed to give way to 281-room hotel to be called Suites.

The Main Club, once the dormitory and mess hall of American servicemen until it was converted into a fully furnished and well-lit social hall and restaurant where guests were required to wear their Sunday best for its glitzy balls, has been pulverized.

Ambience

A four-story, 187-unit condotel called Manor has risen in its place. Interestingly, save for the architectural design, Manor is shaped like the old Main Club. From a distance, although it is only 71-percent complete, Manor looks like a refurbished Main Club.

The Friendship Garden in front of the Main Club would soon give way to lawns. But the statues of Manuel Quezon and Abraham Lincoln facing each other would stay. Manor's guests will have to get in using the Main Club's backdoor.

When the rhythms of life were slower, gentler, the gazebo in front of the Main Club was once the venue for Western songs. Among the performers was a quartet singing "Seven Lonely Days." One of its members was John Hay Poro Point executive vice president Damaso Bangaoet, then a 13-year-old Baguio native.

The old Mile Hi, so called because it was a mile high above sea level, gave way to a sprawling Golf Clubhouse, where the reception of the Aga Muhlach-Charlene Gonzales wedding was held, not in the (old) Main Club, contrary to reports.

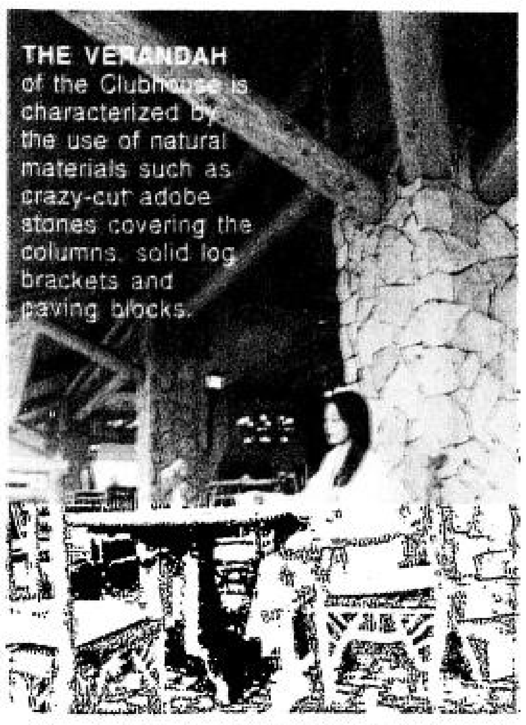
Time was when one could see a panoramic view of the golf course from the patio of the 19th tee. Now, one can see it all from the Golf Clubhouse.

Log home

Some of the white and green cottages had also been torn down and given way to at least 120 country homes, log homes and country log homes.

Like the Golf Clubhouse, the log homes and country log homes are made of red cedar logs imported from Canada. Imported, because cutting of trees was strictly prohibited in John Hay. There is certainly no truth to the report that air quality has deteriorated inside John Hay

NEW GOLF clubhouse facing the greens evokes taste of Americana such as the shingled roof, exposed half timbers and gables.



THE VERANDAH of the Clubhouse is characterized by the use of natural materials such as crazy-cut adobe stones covering the columns, solid log brackets and paving blocks.

Even Jack Nicklaus has rearranged the 18-hole golf course. The camp's main gate is closed to traffic.

Hole No. 1, then near the 19th tee, is now located near the Golfhouse. Hole No. 5 is now Hole No. 18. Beside it is an additional caddy shack.

Cool weather

The once driving range located beside the 19th tee moved near Hole No. 3. The former driving range is now Hole No. 7.

All others remain the same.

The temperate climate of John Hay, for instance

And it remains Baguio's main attraction, and it's been there long, long before the Americans came and conquered. Intact still are the Commander's Cottage, Honeymoon Cottage, Bell House.

For historical reasons, these won't be touched, according to Frederico S. Alquiroz, chief operating officer of John Hay Development Corp.

As of December, the company has spent about P1.5 billion to build the Golf Clubhouse, Manor and restructure the golf course, among others, mindful of the fear that it would lose the ambiance of the early American times and eventually the tourists. But the fear, he says, has been unfounded.

John Hay is not earning—or at least not enough—to match its investments. This early, there have been several takers on the country homes and log homes. Some occupants, in fact, are prominent Filipino businessmen and politicians. The number of members in the clubhouse has risen to 1,000, way above the previous count.

Elitist

Freddie's group has retained the name Camp John Hay, which was changed to Club John Hay when the Americans turned over the facility in early 1990s.

"The name of Club John Hay was too elitist," he says. "Camp John Hay is more acceptable to the public. And we want it to be more accessible to the public."

In fact, the fear of losing the ambiance of the early American times should be unfounded. Preserving the environment is a bigger task.

Even the US presidents' vacation resort in Camp David, the mountain estate run by the US Navy in Maryland, which President Eisenhower named after his grandson, has undergone changes throughout the years.

Of its own time and place, every generation has a story to tell. As they say in Latin: "*Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*" Times change, and we all